

An A C T to abolish for ever the payment of quit-rent.

Preamble.

W H E R E A S it appears to this general assembly highly improper for, and derogatory to, the citizens of this sovereign and independent state, to pay quit-rent or tribute to the subject of a foreign prince, and that not only their honour and dignity, but their safety, requires, that no subject of an enemy should draw a revenue from this state: And whereas, since the present glorious revolution, the payment of quit-rent has ceased throughout the United States, and sound policy dictates, that the citizens of this state should hold their lands on equal terms with the citizens of the other states: And whereas the payment of quit-rent, from the declaration of independence, hath ceased and of right ought to cease, being an acknowledgment of a feigniory incompatible with the absolute sovereignty of this free and independent state:

Quit-rent abolished, &c.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the citizens thereof, from the declaration of independence, and for ever thereafter, be, and they are hereby declared to be exonerated and discharged from the payment of the aforesaid quit-rent, and that the same shall be for ever abolished and discontinued.

C H A P. XIX.

An A C T for the adjournment of the general court for the western shore, and of Dorchester county court.

Preamble.

W H E R E A S several gentlemen, having business in the said courts, are obliged to attend the general assembly as members thereof:

General court adjourned, &c.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all causes, pleas, process, and proceedings, either criminal or civil, now depending in the said general court, directed by law to be held on the second Tuesday of May next, shall be and are, by virtue of this act, adjourned and continued to Monday the twenty-second day of May aforesaid; and that all the said causes, pleas, process, and proceedings, now depending in the said court, and all process returnable thereto, shall then be in the same state and condition as they would be on the said second Tuesday of May next.

Dorchester county court adjourned, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That all causes, pleas, process, and proceedings, either criminal or civil, now depending in the said Dorchester county court, which stands adjourned to the first day of May next, and all process returnable thereto, shall be, and they are by this act adjourned and continued to the fifteenth day of May next; and that all the causes, pleas, process, and proceedings, now depending in the said court, and all process returnable thereto, shall then be in the same state and condition as they would be on the said first day of May, any law, usage, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.