

An ACT to procure recruits. *Suppl. next Act*

WHEREAS this general assembly are earnestly called upon Preamble.
by several requisitions from congress, and letters from general Washington, to recruit the quota of troops of this state :

II. Be it enacted, *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That one thousand men be forthwith raised to serve in the regiments of this state in the continental service for three years, if not sooner discharged, by an equal assessment on all property within this state. One thousand men to be raised, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That the lieutenant of each county shall, as soon as may be after notice of this act, divide and apportion all the property last assessed in his county, and the sums imposed on paupers, as herein after directed, into classes of sixteen thousand pounds each, as near as conveniently may be, taking care, as far as convenience will allow, to mix in each class persons of considerable property with such as have little or none, putting into each class, as near as conveniently may be, an equal number of militia men, and not placing militia men of different battalions in one and the same class, if it can be well avoided; and each class shall, within twenty days after classing as aforesaid, find an able bodied recruit, between sixteen and forty-five years old, to serve for three years, if not sooner discharged, and the same recruit deliver to the lieutenant of the county, to be by him passed, after which such class shall be exempt from contributing any property towards finding the men intended to be raised by this act, and also from the draught herein after mentioned. Lieutenant to apportion property, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That any able bodied slave, between sixteen and forty years of age, who voluntarily enters into the service, and is passed by the lieutenant, in the presence and with the consent and agreement of his master, may be accepted as a recruit; and if any slave shall be so entered and passed by any person claiming the property in such slave who hath had him in possession above twelve months, and hath not the property, such slave shall be thereby freed, but the person procuring such slave to be entered and passed as a recruit, shall be answerable to the person having the property in such slave, in an action for money had and received to his use, for double the value of such slave. Slaves may be accepted, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That the field and commissioned officers of the militia, or such of them as shall be required, shall attend the county lieutenant aforesaid of their respective county, at such times and places as he shall appoint, and assist him in classing the property of the militia of their respective battalions and companies, and other property within the districts of their battalions and companies, and also the paupers aforesaid, under the penalty of one hundred pounds, in Spanish dollars at seven shillings and six-pence each, for every refusal or neglect to attend, and the captains or other commanding officers of companies shall, if required, give the said notice to those of their companies who may be first named in classes; and the better to enable the lieutenants to apportion and class the property in their counties, the last valuation Officers to assist in classing militia, &c.
of