

reasonable that the officers and soldiers should be answerable for any of the articles aforesaid, furnished since the last day of July, seventeen hundred and eighty, as well as for cloathing furnished before and since that day :

C H A P.  
XXXV.  
XXXVI.

XI. *Be it enacted*, That there shall be deducted, out of the pay to arise due since the said last day of July, the real value of any cloathing or other articles furnished since that time.

Cloathing to be deducted, &c.

C H A P. XXXVI.

An ACT relating to public creditors.

**W**HEREAS this government hath necessarily incurred a very considerable state debt, in procuring the means to defend the property, lives, and liberties, of its citizens, and it is not in the ability of the state immediately, or for some small time, from the deranged state of our finances, and the very large sums of money absolutely necessary to defray the expences of the present campaign, to discharge the principal or interest due; and justice requires, that no preference should be given to public creditors; and it is the firm and declared resolution of this general assembly to make provision at the next session, at all events, for the punctual payment of interest on all public debts, liquidated agreeable to this act, and the act to adjust the debts due from this state, passed this session, and if possible to discharge part of the principal, in proportion to each debt :

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the claims of all public creditors, whether on specie or current money, flour or other specific contracts, shall be adjusted and settled, as soon as possible, by the auditor-general (or his deputy) in specie, subject to the examination and correction of the governor and the council, and certificates may be given therefor, bearing interest, agreeable to the act passed this session to adjust the debts due from this state; and if any creditor shall decline receiving such certificate, he may have a certificate from the governor and council of the sum of specie due to him from the state, signed by their clerk, and such certificate shall be evidence of the debt owing by the public to such creditor, and the same shall be paid to him or his assignee.

Claims to be adjusted, &c.

III. *And be it enacted*, That all interest to arise on certificates issued on the adjustment of public debts, agreeable to the acts of this session, shall be punctually paid in specie, or the full and real money, to the satisfaction of the creditor; and this assembly engage and plight the public faith and honour, that ample provision shall be made for this purpose at the next session of assembly, and if possible to pay part of the principal in proportion to each debt.

Interest to be paid, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted*, That all debts due from this state in tobacco, for tobacco borrowed, or payable in that article, shall be discharged and paid in tobacco as soon as possible, agreeable to the terms of the loan or contract; and the debt contracted for cloathing bought or seized under the act of this session, and no other debt, may be paid by the sale or exchange of public flour or tobacco.

Debts in tobacco, how to be paid, &c.