

An ACT to suspend the collection of the tax from certain persons who have suffered by the enemy.

WH E R E A S Richard Sprigg hath, by his petition, stated to this assembly, that, in consequence of an order of convention, he removed his negroes and stock from an island belonging to him, lying near to the eastern shore, opposite the mouth of Patuxent river, containing by patent seven hundred acres, and that the said island has not been occupied by him since: And whereas Herbert Blackstone, of Saint Mary's, hath, by his petition, stated to this assembly, that, by order of the county lieutenant of Saint Mary's, a tenant, which he last year settled on an island lying in Patowmack river, called Saint Clement's, or Blackstone's, was removed from the said island, together with all the stock thereon, by which means the said Herbert Blackstone lost his rent, and has not since occupied the said island: And whereas James Walton, of Saint Mary's county, hath set forth, by his petition, that he is seised of a tract of land called Saint George's-island, lying in Patowmack river, on which he had several tenants, who have been removed by order of the county lieutenant, by which means he lost all his rents, and receives no kind of advantage from the said island: And whereas this assembly find the facts aforesaid truly stated by the petitioners: Therefore,

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the commissioners of the counties in which the aforesaid islands are assessed, shall suspend the collection of the assessment on the same till the general assembly shall take order therein.

Collection sus-
pended, &c.

III. And, Whereas Betty Handy, William Roberts, Levin Dashiell, and Aaron Sterling, of Somerset county; and James Fenwick, George Brewer, Herbert Blackstone, and James Walton, of Saint Mary's county; have, by their several petitions, stated to this assembly, that they have severally been plundered by the enemy, and have had their houses burned; and the facts appear to be truly stated to this assembly by their several petitions: And whereas Jonathan Hudson, of Worcester county, by his petition hath set forth, that he has lost his leg and part of his thigh, and that he has a wife and a number of small children, and his estate very small, and barely sufficient to afford the absolute necessaries of life: And whereas the facts so set forth appear to be true: Therefore, Be it enacted, That the commissioners of the tax of the counties in which they are assessed, shall suspend so much of their several assessments as they shall think reasonable, having respect to the property they have actually lost, and so far as the said commissioners shall think their property is made worse and of less value by the actual depredations of the enemy, they shall, in their discretion, abate the tax due upon their several estates, and order the same to be collected according to such estimate.

Part of assess-
ment suspend-
ed, &c.