

An ACT for the relief of John Briscoe.

Preamble.

WHEREAS John Briscoe, of Saint Mary's county, by his humble petition to this general assembly hath set forth, that he was a joint partner in trade with James and Robert Buchanan, merchants in Glasgow, in North-Britain, and the said John Briscoe transacted the business for the said company in this state; and that the said John Briscoe, during the partnership, contracted, and is yet liable for, sundry debts due from the said company; and that there are debts in this state more than sufficient to pay the said debts: And whereas it appears to this general assembly, that the facts contained in the said petition are true:

Division to be
made, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the governor and council may direct a division of all the visible property, real and personal, of the said company, to be made, according to the right of each person concerned; which division shall be made by any three magistrates of the county where such property lies, to be appointed by the governor and council; and the said John Briscoe, if he chooses to join in the choice, and the said justices, shall make such division, and be on oath to do the same fairly, without affection or partiality; and the proportion of such property assigned to the said John Briscoe by the said justices, or any two of them, shall be absolutely and separately vested in the said John Briscoe; and the proportions of the property, after the division aforesaid, of the said James and Robert Buchanan, shall be subject to the disposal of the general assembly.

J. Briscoe may
collect debts,
&c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the said John Briscoe shall have full power and authority to settle, secure, collect, and pass receipts and discharges for the debts due to the said company, and to sue for and recover the same, in the name or names of the said company, under such restrictions and provisions as to bringing suits as are or may by law be imposed on citizens of this state; and so much of the money arising from the said debts, as is necessary to pay the debts due from the said company, shall be applied, by the said John Briscoe, to discharge such debts, and the said John Briscoe shall reserve such part of the remaining money arising from the collection of the said debts, as corresponds with the proportion or share of the said John Briscoe in the said company, to his separate use; and the residue of the money arising from the collection of such debts shall be paid into the treasury of the western shore, subject to the disposal of the general assembly.

To enter into
bond, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That the said John Briscoe, before he enters on the settlement and collection of the said debts, shall enter into bond to this state, with such security as the governor and council shall approve, in the penalty of ten thousand pounds current money, conditioned for the true and just execution of the power and authority vested in the said John Briscoe by this act

To settle with
auditor, &c.

V. *And be it enacted,* That John Briscoe shall, on or before the first day of June next, and annually on or before the first of June, until the business is finished, settle and pass his accounts, for the collection, disbursement,