

C H A P.
XXXI.

and Eleanor Merryman, had been of full age to execute the same; provided that the said leases shall not burthen the said John Merryman, Nicholas Merryman, and Eleanor Merryman, with any covenants or assurance for quiet enjoyment of the premises, other than from and against themselves, and all persons claiming by, from, or under them.

Proviso.

III. **Provided always, and be it enacted,** That before the said Elijah Merryman shall execute any of the leases aforesaid, that he shall lay the same before the judges of the orphans court aforesaid, for their consent and approbation; and that no such leases shall be good and valid in law or equity, unless before the execution of the same the said leases have the consent and approbation of said court endorsed on said leases by the register of said court.

C H A P. XXXII.

An A C T to declare Joshua Johnson, merchant, his wife and children, citizens of this state.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that some doubts are entertained whether Joshua Johnson, merchant, residing in Great-Britain, and his children, born or to be born of his present wife, a native of Great Britain, are citizens of this state, and it appears to this general assembly, that the said Joshua Johnson is a native of this state, and left it in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-one, and went to reside in London for the purposes of commerce, and some time in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, withdrew himself from the British dominions on account of his attachment to the United States, and that the said Joshua Johnson constantly, during the course of the late war, by many voluntary and affirmative acts of friendship, openly manifested his attachment to the cause of America, and its liberties and independence, and the principles of the late happy and glorious revolution, and at all times during the war, and ever since, hath elected to be a citizen of this state:

J. Johnson
declared a ci-
tizen, &c.

II. **Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,** That the said Joshua Johnson is and shall be, and is hereby declared to be, a citizen of this state, and is and shall be entitled to every right, benefit, and privilege of a citizen, in as full and ample manner as if he had always remained and continued within the state, and taken the oaths of fidelity to this government.

His children,

III. **And be it enacted,** That every child of the said Joshua Johnson born before the revolution, or since, or hereafter to be born, by his present or any future wife, is and shall be deemed, taken, and adjudged to be, a citizen of this state.

And wife.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That the wife of the said Joshua Johnson shall be deemed and adjudged a citizen of this state, as if born therein since the establishment of the present government.

C H A P. XXXIII.

An A C T for establishing a company for opening and extending the navigation of the river Patowmack.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the extension of the navigation of Patowmack river, from tide water to the highest place practicable on the north branch, will be of great public utility, and many persons