

C H A P.  
LXXXI.

title to such property, he may and shall direct the attorney-general to file a bill in the high court of chancery, on behalf of this state, for the discovery of such trust or concealed property, and for delivering up such deeds, writings, and evidence of title to the same, and thereupon proceedings shall be had, and decree made, according to the rules of the high court of chancery in such cases.

Forfeiture on  
persons hav-  
ing possession  
of B. proper-  
ty, &c.

II. **And be it enacted,** That if any person having possession of any confiscated British property, and not having a fair claim of title thereto, or having obtained the possession of any property formerly belonging to any British subject, in virtue of any gift, grant, sale devise or conveyance, made or executed since the nineteenth of April seventeen hundred and seventy-five, and before the first of December seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, by any person declared to be a British subject by the act to seize, confiscate and appropriate, all British property within this state, with intent and design to cover and protect such property from confiscation, or by any conveyance, gift, grant, sale or devise, made since the first of December seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, by any person declared a British subject as aforesaid, not bonâ fide in pursuance of some contract or agreement made before that day in writing, or for the just payment of a debt due before that day by the person making such grant, conveyance or sale, to the person receiving the same, and shall not discover the same property, and the circumstances under which the same is held, and deliver up the same and the title papers thereof to the intendant of the revenue, by the first day of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-six, such person shall forfeit one fourth of the value of the property; and if any person having possession of any such property shall voluntarily discover the same, the intendant shall have full power and authority to sell the same to such person at a reasonable price, secured to be paid to this state, and after the first day of January seventeen hundred and eighty-six, the intendant, on waving the penalty, may direct a bill to be filed as aforesaid, against any person having possession of such property.

C H A P. LXXXII.

**An ACT** to empower Charles Steuart, administrator of John Bennett, to dispose of the real estate of the said John Bennett for the payment of his debts.

Preamble.

**W** H E R E A S Charles Steuart, by his humble petition to this general assembly, did set forth, that John Bennett, of Dorchester county, died seized in fee of the following tracts of land, to wit: One tract of land called Hog Quarter, containing two hundred and fifty acres of land, one other tract of land called New Market, containing twenty-two acres of land, one other tract of land called Green Timber-yard, containing sixty-five acres of land, and another tract of land called Bennett's Pasture, containing six acres of land; and that the said John Bennett was indebted by bond, at the time of his decease, a much greater sum of money than the whole of his personal estate could discharge; and that the said real estate was, by the said John Bennett in his life-time, mortgaged to the house of Dick and Steuart for a much greater sum than the said real estate will now sell for; that the said Charles Steuart hath already paid away, in discharge of the debts due on specialties from the said John Bennett, more than the amount of his whole personal estate; that the said real estate was daily decreasing in value, and the buildings thereon going to decay, and that the said estate would be of little or no value by the time the heir of the said John Bennett will arrive at full age; and therefore prayed, that an act might pass to enable him, the said Charles Steuart, to sell and dispose of the aforesaid real estate  
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