

WILLIAM SMALLWOOD, Esq; Governor. 1785.

II. And be it enacted, That no action or prosecution hereafter shall be commenced for the recovery of any penalty or forfeiture imposed by the said act. C H A P. LXXII. No action shall be commenced, &c.

C H A P. LXX.

An ACT for the relief of Edward Tilghman of the city of Philadelphia. *(A private act.)* Passed Mar. 9.

C H A P. LXXI.

An ACT concerning a purchase of certain property, formerly belonging to Henry Stevenson, made by Robert Ballard of the commissioners of confiscated property. Passed Mar. 9.

W H E R E A S it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of Robert Ballard, that he purchased of the commissioners of confiscated property a parcel of land adjoining Baltimore-town, with the dwelling-house, buildings and improvements, thereon, late the property of Henry Stevenson, that at the time of sale he was induced to believe, that the parcel of ground sold by the said commissioners contained at the least eighteen acres, three rods and six perches, of land, exclusive of that part in front of the house claimed by Mrs. Stevenson; that not more than five acres, part of the said land, lie contiguous to Jones's falls, which, in his opinion, was more valuable than the other part of the said land, and was the great inducement with him to become the purchaser; that after passing his bond to the state, upon an inquiry into the title, and causing a survey of the said land, he finds that Mrs. Stevenson has a claim to more than three acres in front of the dwelling-house, and that Benjamin Griffith, and Wilson and Brown, have a claim to, and now are in possession of, more than five acres lying on Jones's falls, which five acres, and the whole of the said land, he expected the state had an unquestionable title to; and this general assembly being of opinion that it is reasonable to refer the case of the said Robert Ballard to the consideration and determination of the chancellor; therefore, Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the chancellor be authorized and empowered, on application of the said Robert Ballard, on or before the first day of April next, to inquire into the title of the said land purchased by the said Ballard from the state, as the property formerly belonging to Henry Stevenson, and to inspect and examine the title papers and proofs respecting the said land, both those under which the said Stevenson claimed the same, and those under which the claims of the said Benjamin Griffith, and Wilson and Brown, are now set up, which title papers, or such of them as are recorded, shall be exhibited by the said Ballard; and also to order a survey and plots to be made of said land, and to summon and examine witnesses touching the boundaries thereof, or any other fact necessary to be known, and also to inquire what land was meant, intended and agreed, to be sold to said Ballard by the commissioners of confiscated property; and if the chancellor, upon an inquiry into the subject, should be of opinion that any land was meant, intended and agreed, to be sold to said Ballard by the commissioners aforesaid, which the said Henry Stevenson, at the time he left this state, had not a just or equitable title to, and that the state cannot justly and equitably claim, and the title of the same, or any part thereof, is justly and equitably in the said Benjamin Griffith, and Wilson and Brown, then the chancellor shall decree the sale aforesaid, made by the commissioners aforesaid, to be void, and thereupon the bond passed by the said Robert Ballard for the said property shall be delivered to him by the treasurer of the western shore, provided such decree be given before the Chancellor to inquire into titles, &c.