

1787.

L A W S of M A R Y L A N D.

C H A P. XV.

An ACT for the relief of Robert Peacock.

Passed May 15.  
Preamble.

**W**HEREAS the said Robert Peacock, by his petition to this general assembly, hath set forth, that in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-five, he intermarried with a certain Elizabeth Cooper, of Talbot county, who, before the solemnization of the said marriage, conveyed unto the said Robert Peacock her whole estate, both real and personal; that the said Robert Peacock soon after left this country, with an intention to return after settling some business in Scotland, but was prevented by the commencement of the late war: And whereas it appears by testimonials from sundry persons who were prisoners in Scotland, that the said Robert Peacock manifested the warmest attachment to the United States, by repeated instances of friendly services to distressed prisoners of America, when in captivity in Scotland, by advancing them money, and kindly entertaining them at his own house: And whereas it also appears, that the said property of the said Robert Peacock, when exposed to sale as confiscated property, was purchased by William Perry for the use and benefit of the said Robert Peacock, and that the said William Perry is willing to give up the said property, provided the bond he gave at the time of sale, is declared null and void; and this general assembly deeming such distinguished attachment to the United States in the said Robert Peacock, worthy of the interposition of the legislature; therefore,

Property restored, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the property formerly belonging to the said Robert Peacock, be and is hereby restored to him, and the bond given by the said William Perry, to secure the payment of the purchase money for the said property, be and is hereby declared null and void; provided, that the said Robert Peacock pay all expences, if any, attending the sale of the said property, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XVI.

Passed May 21.  
Preamble.

A Supplement to the act for the speedy recovery of small debts out of court.

**W**HEREAS by the said act the sums of money and tobacco recoverable before one justice of the peace, are too small for the purpose of relieving suitors from the heavy expence in attending the courts of justice, and this general assembly being desirous of giving every relief in their power;

Sums extended, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the said sums be extended to ten pounds current money, and one thousand pounds of tobacco; that in all cases, from and after the first day of June next, where the real debt or damage doth not exceed the aforesaid sums of money or tobacco, any one justice of the peace for each respective county wherein the debtor doth reside, may try, hear and determine, the matter of controversy between the creditor and debtor, agreeable to the manner and mode pointed out in the said act, any thing in the said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proviso.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That execution shall not issue on any judgment given for any sum above five pounds current money, or five hundred pounds of tobacco, until the end of one year after the first return of the warrant, the debtor giving special bail before the said magistrate, if required by the creditor, and the creditor shall be entitled to receive legal interest on the judgment until the same is satisfied and paid off.

Either party may appeal, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That either plaintiff or defendant (where they shall think themselves aggrieved) may appeal to the next county court in manner directed by the said act, whenever the debt or damages doth exceed forty shillings current money, or two hundred pounds of tobacco, and either of the said parties may demand a trial by jury, or leave the cause to be determined by the court at their election, so that the cause shall be reheard and finally determined the first or second court after the appeal.

V. Provided