

C H A P. XLIX. authority to estimate the value, or fix a reasonable price for the said property, and to compound with the person making discovery and applying to purchase the same;

Governor and council to compound, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the governor and council be and they are hereby empowered to compound with all persons who have made discovery of British property at any time before the first day of May, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, and to allow not exceeding one third of the value of such property to any person or persons having made such discovery, according to the act to vest certain powers in the governor and council, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and eighty-five.

Executions suspended.

III. WHEREAS sundry collectors of the tax have been executed, and others are liable to execution, for the respective balances due from them to the state, and it appearing to this general assembly to be repugnant to the dictates of humanity and sound policy to proceed with the utmost rigour of the law against the said collectors, and their securities, whereby they, with their families, will be involved in the greatest distress, and may be reduced to the most abject state of poverty, without producing any substantial advantage to the state: And whereas it is reasonable, and accords with good government, that a power should be lodged some where in the recess of the general assembly, to afford relief in such cases of extreme hardship as cannot admit of delay, and would merit legislative interposition; *Be it enacted,* That all executions issued against the said collectors, and their securities, are hereby suspended until the first day of March next.

Governor, &c. to suspend executions, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That the governor and the council be and they are hereby authorized to suspend or countermand executions already issued against the collectors of the tax, and to prevent executions being sued out against them respectively.

Proviso.

V. *Provided nevertheless,* That the said collector or collectors, or their securities, applying for relief, shall furnish to the governor and council a list, on oath or affirmation, as the case may be, of all persons in their respective counties or districts who are in arrears for the said taxes, and if it shall appear to the governor and council, that the said arrearages remain in the hands of the people, and that the said collector or collectors have used their best endeavours to collect the same, then, and in such case, the governor and council shall have full power and authority to suspend or countermand any execution or executions against such collector or collectors, and his or their securities, on his or their proving payment of one third part of all arrearages since the original execution or executions may have issued against them, and to suspend such execution or executions as aforesaid, on his or their payment of one other third part of such arrearages within the space of three months after his or their application for relief as aforesaid, and the remaining one third part of such arrearages within the space of three months thereafter; and he or they shall produce to the governor and council, at the time of such application, a receipt from the treasurer of the western or eastern shore, as the case may be, of their having paid the above respective portions of the said arrearages since the issuing of the said original execution or executions against them respectively, and before his or their application for relief as aforesaid; and all collectors, and their securities, against whom no executions have already issued, are hereby entitled to the same indulgences, on their proving payment of one third of all arrearages since the commencement of suits against them, as are extended to the collectors against whom executions have issued.

Governor and council to appoint persons, &c.

VI. *And be it enacted,* That the governor and council shall be authorized and required, in all cases where executions shall issue to compel payment from any of the debtors of this state, to appoint a person or persons on the part of the state to attend the sale of property which may be taken in execution, issued at the instance of the state, and to purchase the same for the use of the state, if a sale cannot be otherwise made so as to secure a reasonable price for the property to be taken; and the governor and council shall be and are hereby authorized and