

within two years before the passage of this act, the said chancellor, or court respectively may thereupon, at the election of the creditor making such allegation, either examine said Andrew Buchanan, and a selection of persons to whom he may have made any conveyance or conveyances of his property, or passed bonds or evidences of debts as aforesaid, interrogatories, on oath or affirmation, touching the subject of the said allegations, or direct issue or issues in a summary way without the form of an action, to determine the truth of the same, and if upon the answer of the said interrogatories, or the trial of the said issue or issues by jury, the said Andrew Buchanan shall be found guilty of any fraud or deceit of his creditors or loss by gaming as aforesaid, he shall be for ever precluded from any benefit of this act; and in case the said Andrew Buchanan, or other person, shall, at any time hereafter, upon any indictment, be convicted of wilfully, falsely and corruptly swearing or affirming to any matter touching to which he shall swear or affirm by virtue of this act, he shall suffer as in the case of wilful and corrupt perjury, and be for ever debarred from any benefit of this act; provided that the sale of stock and plantation utensils, and seventeen bushels of sowing rye, by the trustees in the said deed to Lloyd Buchanan, brother of the said Andrew, and for his use, shall not be considered as a sale contrary to the provisions of this act.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if the said Andrew Buchanan shall have been arrested or imprisoned on any process sued out on any judgment or decree obtained against him for any debt, damages or costs, contracted, owing, or growing due before the passage of this act, the court out of which the process issued shall and may discharge the said Andrew Buchanan on motion; and if he shall have been arrested or imprisoned on any process for the recovery of any debt, damages or costs, contracted, owing, or due before the passing of this act, the court before whom such process shall be returned shall and may discharge the said Andrew Buchanan out of custody on common bail; provided, that the discharge of the said Andrew Buchanan shall not acquit any other person from such debt, damages or costs, or any part thereof, but that all such persons shall be answerable for the same in such manner as they were before the passing of this act.

And if arrested may be discharged, &c.

C H A P. XV.

An ACT to empower Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson and Roger Johnson, to remove their slaves into this state from Virginia.

Passed Jan. 15.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson and Roger Johnson, of Frederick county, may, from time to time, remove their or any or either of their slaves, and also such as may be hired and employed in their or any other of their service, from Loudon county, in Virginia, into Frederick county, in this state, and there employ them in their or any or either of their service, from such time and times as they may think fit, in the labour of or concerning the iron-works of them, the said Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson and Roger Johnson, and that no such slave shall thereby become free, nor any penalty be thereby incurred, any law to the contrary notwithstanding; provided, that no slave, not having been a resident of this state before the passing of this act, being brought into Frederick county as aforesaid, shall be sold or disposed of to reside within this state, unless under execution, or other legal process; and provided always, that nothing in this act shall be construed to authorise the removal of any slave into this state who shall not hereafter be recorded by the clerk of Frederick county, as required by the act of one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, entitled, An act relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned; and provided also, that any slave, once recorded as aforesaid, may be afterwards removed at pleasure, agreeably to the provisions of this act.

Slaves may be removed, &c.

C H A P. XVI.

An ACT relating to the public roads in Caroline county.

Passed Jan. 25.

WHEREAS the present mode of repairing the public roads in Caroline county are found by experience to be expensive, and inadequate to the purpose intended; and it has been found necessary that proper regulations should forthwith be made for keeping the roads of the said county in due repair; therefore,

Preamble.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby authorized and required to meet together on the first Monday of April next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, at the court-house in the said county, and when so met together, the said justices, or a majority of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to describe, ascertain, and distinctly delineate in a well bound book to be provided by them for that purpose, the several and respective private and public highways in Caroline county, and to nominate and appoint capable and judicious persons as overseers of the several and respective roads aforesaid, according to the number and extent of the said roads, as the same shall be ascertained upon their records; provided nevertheless, that the said roads shall be so apportioned, divided and described, as not to require a greater number of overseers than five in any one hundred of the said county; and that the said justices, or a majority of them, may adjourn from day to day until the said roads shall be duly delineated, and overseers appointed as aforesaid.

Justices to meet, &c.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That the clerk of the said county shall attend the justices of the peace at their said meetings, and shall make fair entries and records of their proceedings in pursuance of this act, and shall, within the space of ten days after the appointment of overseers as aforesaid, issue warrants to the said overseers, under his hand, and the seal of his office, notifying the said persons of their appointments respectively as overseers of the said roads, according to the several forms, having respect to the alterations required by this act, and the said clerk shall, at the time aforesaid, deliver the said warrants to the sheriff of Caroline county aforesaid, who shall take the receipt of the sheriff for the same; and the said sheriff shall be and he is hereby authorized and required, within the space of twenty days after receiving the said warrants,

Clerk to attend the justices, &c.