

Dec Ses 1817. tain and keep in this state, as a slave, a certain negro girl called Letty, aged about thirteen years, which said negro girl called Letty was lately brought to this state, from the state of Virginia, by the grand-mother of the said Elizabeth A. G. Stephenson, and by her presented to her grand-daughter the said Elizabeth A. G. Stephenson.

Not to be sold for three years 2. *And be it enacted,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorise the sale of the said negro girl, or her increase, until she shall have resided within this state three whole years next preceding such sale.

CHAPTER 24.

Passed Jan 7 **An act for the benefit of the Heirs of John Hardcastle, late of Caroline County, deceased.**

Preamble. **WHEREAS,** it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of Samuel Hardcastle, Thomas Culbreth, and William Orrell, that a commission did issue out of Caroline county court, to five commissioners, to wit: William Hughlett, George Reed, John Boon, Thomas Saulsbury, and William Chilton, to make partition of the real estate of the said John Hardcastle, agreeably to the act of assembly, entitled, "An act to direct descents;" that the said commissioners, pursuant to the powers vested in them by said commission, entered on the premises, and finding that it would not admit of division agreeably to said act of assembly, proceeded to value the same, and make their return to the said court, and that the court, upon examination, were of opinion, that they had no power to confirm the return, by reason of the property being indivisible in its nature, the said property principally consisting of a mill and mill seat; the petitioners therefore prays the aid of the legislature; and the prayers of the petitioners appearing reasonable, Therefore,

County court to confirm commissioners return. Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the county court of Caroline county be and they are hereby authorised and empowered, at their next term, or at any time thereafter, to receive and confirm the return made by the commissioners as aforesaid, in the same manner as if the property had been divisible in its nature, agreeably to the act of assembly, entitled, An act to direct descents, and the supplements thereto.

Commissioners return, when confirmed, to be valid. 2. *And be it enacted,* That on the confirmation of the return of the said commissioners, by the court aforesaid, the same shall be good and valid, and the same proceedings shall be had and used in the premises in every respect as if the property had been divisible in its nature, agreeably to the act of assembly, entitled, An act to direct descents, and the supplements thereto, any law, custom or usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

CHAPTER 25.

Passed Jan 12 **An act for the relief of George G. Simmons.**

Empowered to bring slaves into the state. Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That George G. Simmons be and he is hereby authorised and empowered, to remove, import, and bring into this state, at any time within one year after the passage of this act, two negro slaves called Kitty and Letty, any law to the contrary anywise notwithstanding.