

Dec. Ses. 1817

Proviso.

How to make
the sale of such
slaves.

confinement in the penitentiary for a term not exceeding two years, and such slave or slaves shall be sold by order of the court for the unexpired time of their servitude, for the use of the county in which such conviction shall be had, or for the use of the mayor and city council if such conviction shall be had in Baltimore city court; *Provided nevertheless*, that if any such person who shall have purchased or received such servant or slave, without knowing of his or her title to freedom after a term of years, or after any particular time, or upon any contingency, shall immediately after knowing thereof, give information on oath, or affirmation, to one of the justices of the peace of the county where the seller shall reside, or in the county where such person may reside, or the sale may have been made, of such sale and purchase, the person so purchasing or receiving shall not be liable to prosecution or the punishment as aforesaid.

3. *And be it enacted*, That no sale of any servant or slave, who is or may be entitled to freedom after a term of years, or after any particular time, or upon any contingency, or in whom the seller is entitled for a term of years or limited time, with the reversion in some other person or persons, shall be valid and effectual in law to transfer any right or title in or to such servant or slave, unless the same be in writing, under the hands and seals of both the seller, or his or her authorised agent, and the purchaser, in which the period and terms of servitude or slavery, and the interest of the seller, and also the residence of the purchaser, shall be stated, and the same be acknowledged by said purchaser and seller, or his or her authorised agent, before a justice of the peace in the county where such sale shall be made, and recorded among the records of the county court of said county, within twenty days after such acknowledgment; and if any such sale should be made, and a bill of sale so as aforesaid should not be so executed, acknowledged and recorded, or in case the true time or condition of the slavery or servitude of such servant or slave, and the residence of said purchaser, should not be therein stated, then and in such case every such servant or slave, entitled to freedom after a term of years, or after any particular time, or on any contingency, shall be thereupon free, unless the court or jury who may decide upon the question in a trial, if a petition for freedom, under the foregoing provision, shall be of the opinion that no fraud was intended by the omission of any one of the requisites aforesaid, and in case any other person shall be entitled to a reversion or remainder in said slave, then the said servant or slave shall become the right and property of the said person entitled immediately to such reversion or remainder, in the same manner as if the event or time in which the reversion or remainder was to accrue had actually occurred, unless the court or jury who may decide upon the accrual of such remainder or reversion under the foregoing provision, shall be of the opinion that no fraud was intended by the omission of any one of the requisites aforesaid.

Persons pur-
chasing slaves
to remove them
out of the state
how to pro-
ceed.

4. *And be it enacted*, That whenever any person shall purchase any slave or slaves within this state, for the purpose of exporting or removing the same beyond the limits of this state, it shall be their duty to take from the seller a bill of sale for said slave or slaves, in which the age and distinguishing marks, as nearly as