

Dec Ses 1817.

may be, and the name of such slave or slaves, shall be inserted, and the same shall be acknowledged before some justice of the peace of the county where the sale shall be made, and lodged to be recorded in the office of the clerk of the said county, within twenty days, and the clerk shall immediately on the receipt thereof, actually record the same, and deliver a copy thereof, on demand, to the purchaser, with a certificate endorsed thereupon, under the seal of the county, of the same being duly recorded, on receiving the legal fees for so recording and authenticating the same.

5. *And be it enacted*, That if any person who shall so have purchased any slave or slaves for exportation or removal from the state of Maryland, shall have the same in any county within this state, and information be lodged with any judge or justice of the peace, supported by oath or affirmation, that the deponent or affiant has reasonable ground to believe that such person, who shall so have such slave or slaves in his possession, is about to export and remove them from the state, contrary to law, it shall be the duty of such judge or justice of the peace to proceed to the house or place where such slaves may be, and such judge or justice is hereby empowered and required to enter into any such house or place where such slave or slaves may be, and to demand of the person or persons in whose custody the said slave or slaves may be, an inspection and examination of said slave or slaves, and also of the bills of sale for them respectively, and if upon such demand and examination no bill or bills of sale are produced for either or any such slave or slaves, or if the bills of sale produced shall not have been executed, acknowledged and recorded, agreeably to the provisions herein contained, that the description of any such slave or slaves shall be, in the judgment of such judge or justice of the peace, false or fraudulent, then it shall be the duty of such judge or justice of the peace to cause such slave or slaves, for whom no bill of sale is produced, or for whom a false or fraudulent bill of sale is produced, to go before some judge or justice of the peace of the county aforesaid, and the person or persons who has or have said slave or slaves in possession shall also appear and enter into a recognizance before the same judge, or justice of the peace, with two sufficient securities in the sum of one thousand dollars, for every such servant or slave in his, her, or their possession, without bills of sale, as is herein provided for, to appear at the next county court to answer to the petition of said slave or slaves; and if such judge or justice shall have reason to suspect that such slave or slaves have been stolen by such person or persons, or received by them knowing them to be stolen, or that they had knowingly aided therein, in such cases the recognizance shall provide for their answering such offence; and if such person or persons, so having such slave or slaves, shall refuse or neglect to enter into such recognizance, then such judge or justice of the peace shall commit said person or persons, and such slave or slaves, to the gaol of the county; and the said judge or justice of the peace shall make return of said commitment to the county court, or Baltimore city court if then in session, and if not in session then to the next term of said courts respectively; or if such person, having entered into such recognizance, shall refuse to appear agreeably thereto, or if having appeared it shall appear that such slave or slaves is or are

Persons so purchasing, on information, to enter into recognizance.