

session, 1831, chapter 333, entitled, An act relating to free negroes and slaves, was taken up for consideration.

On motion by Mr. Edelen, said bill was amended by inserting after the word "her," in the second section, sixth line, the words, "at the time of removal," and after the word "State," same section, and seventh line, the words, "or at any time thereafter,"

Mr. Merrick moved further to amend said bill, by adding at the end thereof, as an additional section, the following:

*And be it enacted,* That in all cases where the lawful wife or husband of any slave held and owned in and by an inhabitant of this state, shall be a slave owned and possessed by an inhabitant of any adjoining State, District or Territory; it shall and may be lawful for the owner of such wife or husband, an inhabitant of this state, to purchase, import and bring into this state from any such adjoining State, District or Territory, the said wife or husband of his said slave, provided the lawful marriage of said slave be proved by the affidavit of the person so bringing him or her into this state, or by the affidavit of some other credible white person, which affidavit shall be in writing and left with the Clerk of the county court of the county into which said slave is introduced, for record, within thirty days from the day on which said slave shall be brought into the state of Maryland.

Mr. Harper, moved to amend the amendment proposed by Mr. Merrick, by inserting after the words "provided the lawful marriage of said slave," the following, in these words, "have taken place before the passage of this act, and."

Resolved in the affirmative.

The question then recurred and was put on the amendment as amended.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Merrick moved further to amend said bill, by adding at the end thereof as an additional section, the following:

*And be it enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for all and every person or persons owning or working a herring on shad fishery on the shores of the Potomac River to bring into this state either their own or hired male slaves from the state of Virginia or District of Columbia, for the purpose of performing labour in and about said herring or shad fisheries; provided no slave be introduced or brought into this state for the purpose aforesaid, before the 15th