

neglecting to make such election relinquish all claims of right to property within this state :

*Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the property both real and personal (debts excepted) of all British subjects, residents in Great-Britain, and of all persons, formerly inhabitants of Maryland, who since the fourteenth day of August, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-five, withdrew from and deserted the defence of this country, in the present just and necessary war, who shall not come to this state on or before the first day of May, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-one, and within twenty days after such coming as aforesaid, shall not take and subscribe the oath of fidelity and support to this state required by law, shall, from and immediately after the expiration of twenty days from the said first day of May, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, be taken, vested in, and possessed by commissioners to be appointed by the legislature, and be by such commissioners held and possessed as a pledge and security that justice be done by the king of Great-Britain and his subjects towards this state and the subjects thereof.

*And be it enacted,* That the profits of the estates and property so to be taken and possessed, shall be by such commissioners annually paid into the treasury of this state, to be applied to sink and pay such part of the bills of credit to be issued in consequence of the resolves of congress of the eighteenth day of March, seventeen hundred and eighty, as may be the just proportion of this state.

*And be it enacted,* That the said estates and property, as aforesaid, taken and possessed, shall be kept by such commissioners, and the profits thereof applied as aforesaid, until the end of the present war, or until the expiration of six years from the eighteenth day of March, seventeen hundred and eighty, and if the present war should not end within six years from the said eighteenth day of March, then the said estates and property shall and may be sold, and the product thereof applied to the discharge and payment of all debts and demands, according to the true sterling value thereof, due and owing by the king of Great-Britain and his subjects to this state, or the subjects thereof, and the surplus be applied to the payment and discharge of such of the bills of credit aforesaid.