

Liber LL. 4
Acts
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Marketts being shutt up by reason of the Export to Spain and France in great Measure prohibited, soe that very many honest and Industrious planters her Majesty's Subjects hereby [for] the very Charges of necessary Clothing and Tools for themselves and Families are become vastly Indebted and noe prospect As yet appearing of any means whereby they may Extricate themselves out of their miserable and deplorable circumstances which are yet very much heigtnd and Aggravated by their being sued and brought to Annapolis from the remotest parts of this province to their manifest Oppression and Impoverishment soe that many of the good Inhabitants of this Province daily desert their habitacons and remove themselves to Plantacōns and Collonies where they are far lesse Serviceable to her most Sacred Majesty and her Revenue of Customes of Tobacco And others leave their Abodes and skulk into the Woods or otherwise ride Armed with design to resist the Officers of Justice whereby Endangered All which loudly Calls for Some Speedy and proper Remedy to be Applied thereto, Wherefore this present Generall Assembly humbly Supplicate her most Sacred Majesty That it may be Enacted.

And be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesty's president Councill and Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same That from and after the End of this p̄sent Session of Assembly All persons whatsoever Resideing, Negotiaeting or Tradeing to or within this Province haveing any personall Claime or demand against any the Inhabitants of this Province wherein the Originall or Principall debt or damages doe not Exceed the value of Twenty pounds sterling or Five Thousand pounds of Tobacco shall by vertue of this Act be Obligated to sue and Implead their Severall and respective debtors in the severall and respective County Courts where such their debtors Inhabite and Reside And not Elsewhere on penalty of suffering a nonsuite and paying the defend^t his reasonable Charges to be Adjudged by the Justices of any other Court wherein they shall be sued or Impleaded, Any Law Statute usage or Custome to the Contrary Notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority afores^d by and with the Advice and Consent afores^d That where any debt or damage is demanded by virtue of any Bond or Writeing Obligatory the penalty of such Bond shall not although It Exceed Twenty pounds in Money or Five Thousand pounds of Tobacco Entitle any Pēt to bring his Accōn in any Court but the County Court unlesse the reall Sume due in the Condiccōn of such Bond amounts to Twenty pounds or Five Thousand pounds of Tobacco Any Thing in this Act or any other Statute Law Custome or Usage to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always That nothing in this Act shall Extend or be Construed to Extend to debarr or hinder any p̄son from bringing his Accon in the Provinciall or Superior Court on any Coven^t or on