

C H A P. XXVII.

An ACT to explain and amend the act for the better security of the government.

**W**HEREAS male subjects of this state, who were above eighteen years of age, and were out of this state at the time of passing the act for the better security of the government, on lawful purposes, in any of the neighbouring states, or in parts beyond the seas, and have returned into this state since the first day of March, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, or may hereafter return into this state, are not by the said act subject to the treble tax, and other disabilities imposed by the said act for their not taking, repeating or subscribing, the oath of fidelity and support to this state, nor are such persons by the laws considered as nonjurors: For remedy whereof in future,

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That every such male person, who shall hereafter return into this state, unless he shall, within one month next after his return as aforesaid, take, repeat and subscribe, the oath, or if a quaker, menonist or dunker, the affirmation, of fidelity and support to this state, before the governor and council, or some magistrate of the city or county where he resides, shall be considered as a nonjuror within the intent of the said act, and shall be subject to the treble tax, and all other disabilities imposed on nonjurors by that or any other act or acts.

Persons returning, to take the oath, &c.

C H A P. XXVIII.

An ACT to prevent disaffected emigrants from settling in this state, and to detect and punish the disaffected, and to prevent any correspondence or trade with the enemy, and to punish certain misdemeanors.

To continue during the present war with Great-Britain. Expired.

C H A P. XXIX.

An ACT to continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned.

C H A P. XXX.

An ACT to abrogate and abolish part of the thirty-seventh article of the form of government.

C H A P. XXXI.

An ACT to abrogate and abolish the forty-fifth article of the form of government.

C H A P. XXXII.

An ACT to alter part of the fifty-fifth article of the form of government.

The conclusion of each of these three acts expresses, that it shall be in force if confirmed by the general assembly in the first session after the next election of delegates. They were published as the constitution directs those acts to be which alter or repeal any part of the constitution; but although those articles, which it was their object to abolish or alter, were generally thought to have been injudiciously adopted, such was the veneration for the constitution, and so great the apprehensions of innovation if once any part of it should be submitted to the spirit of reformation, that the people did not approve these acts, and therefore the succeeding legislature did not confirm them.

C H A P. XXXIII.

An ACT to secure the certain redemption of the bills of credit emitted by this state, and for which confiscated British property was pledged.

The commissioners are directed to sell the White Marsh furnace, and Long Caln forge, lately the property of James Russell and company, with all the lands and stock, real, personal and mixt, belonging to them within this state, on the following terms: Each purchaser shall enter into bond, with two sureties, each of whom having assented property to double the value of the purchase money, which is payable in specie, or in black state money, by the 1st of January, 1786; and in failure of payment there shall be proceedings similar to those directed by the red money act.

Any person may exchange his black money with the treasurer for any of the bonds taken under this act, reckoning the interest due on each side; the treasurer, in behalf of the state, shall thereupon give him an assignment, and he shall be entitled, in his own name (and so may his assignee) to the remedy which the public has for compelling payment. If any purchaser, however, chooses to pay ready money, and that shall happen to be specie, it shall be kept in the treasury for the purpose of redeeming the said black money.