

C H A P. XXII.

An ACT, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act to raise a sum of money for the payment of the officers and soldiers of the line of this state, from the first day of August, seventeen hundred and eighty, to the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-one.

C H A P. XXIII.

An ACT to prohibit the bringing slaves into this state.

BE it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That it shall not be lawful, after the passing this act, to import or bring into this state, by land or water, any negro, mulatto, or other slave, for sale, or to reside within this state; and any person brought into this state as a slave contrary to this act, if a slave before, shall thereupon immediately cease to be a slave, and shall be free; provided that this act shall not prohibit any person, being a citizen of some one of the United States, coming into this state, with a *bonâ fide* intention of settling therein, and who shall actually reside within this state for one year at least, to be computed from and next succeeding his coming into the state, to import or bring in any slave or slaves which before belonged to such person, and which slave or slaves had been an inhabitant of some one of the United States, for the space of three whole years next preceding such importation; and the residence of such slave in some one of the United States, for three years, as aforesaid, antecedent to his coming into this state, shall be fully proved, to the satisfaction of the naval officer or collector of the tax, by the oath of the owner, or some one or more credible witness or witnesses.

Slaves not to be imported, &c.

II. **Provided always**, That nothing herein contained shall be construed or taken to set any slave free, who is brought into this state by any person travelling through this state, or sojourning therein for a short time, such slave not being sold or otherwise disposed of in this state, but carried by the owner out of this state.

Provide

III. **And be it enacted**, That no slave manumitted agreeable to the laws of this state, or made free in consequence of this act, or the issue of any such slave, shall be entitled to the privilege of voting at elections, or of being elected or appointed to any office of trust or profit, or to give evidence against any white person, or to enjoy any other rights of a freeman, other than to hold property, and to obtain redress in law or equity for any injury to his person or property.

Slaves manumitted not to vote at elections, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted**, That no person brought into this state from any of the United States, who is not a slave for life by the laws of the state from which such person is brought, shall be considered as a slave for life in this state, but such person brought into this state shall serve for the time which the laws of the state from which such person is brought oblige him or her to serve, and no longer.

Slaves from other states to serve no longer than the laws oblige, &c.

C H A P. XXIV.

An ACT appointing wardens for the port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county.

WHEREAS it is of importance to the state, that proper persons should be appointed to preserve the navigation of the basin and harbour of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county: Therefore,

Preamble.

II. **Be it enacted**, by the general assembly of Maryland, That Samuel Smith, Daniel Bowley, John Sterett, Samuel Purviance, Thomas Ruffell, Richard Ridgely, Robert Henderson, Thomas Elliot, and William Patterson, be and are hereby appointed wardens for the said port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, till the first Monday in October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and no longer, unless elected agreeably to the manner hereafter prescribed; and said wardens and their successors, are hereby invested with full power and authority to carry into effect the several objects and intentions of this act; and it shall and may be lawful for them, or a majority of them, the chairman herein after directed to be chosen being one, as soon as conveniently may be, having first taken the oath or qualification hereafter prescribed, to meet

Wardens appointed, &c.

meet