

XII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the chancellor may, by order, limit and appoint the time for creditors to bring in and declare their claims, and may examine such creditors, and also the debtor, on oath or affirmation, concerning the same, and, on any contested claim, may, if he thinks proper, order the same, or any fact concerning the same, to be tried on an issue framed for that purpose, and may order any part of the petitioning debtor's estate to be set apart and retained for the eventual satisfaction of any contested claim, or to be brought again into distribution; and if any creditor to whom a real debt is due, shall collude with the debtor to gain an undue preference in the satisfaction of his debt, or for concealment of any part of the debtor's estate or effects, or shall contrive or concert any acknowledgment of the debtor, by parole, or in writing, or any kind of security, to give false colour to his claim for more than is *bonâ fide* due, such creditor shall lose his debt truly due, and shall be totally excluded in the distribution.

C H A P.
XCVII.
And limit the
time, &c.

XIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if the said debtors, or any of them, shall be arrested or imprisoned on any process sued out on any judgment or decree obtained against them, or any of them, for any debt, damages or cost, contracted, owing or growing due, before the passage of this act, the court, out of which such process issued, or any one judge of the general court, or the chief justice of the district court, or the two associate justices of the county court of the county where the said debtor may be arrested or imprisoned, on application made to them, shall and may discharge such debtor on motion; and if the said debtors, or any of them, shall be arrested or imprisoned on any process for the recovery of any debt, damages or costs, contracted, owing or growing due, before the passage of this act, the court before whom such process shall be returned shall and may discharge such debtor or debtors out of custody on his common appearance being entered, without any special bail; provided, that the discharge of such debtor or debtors shall not acquit any other person from such debt, damages or costs, or any part thereof, but that all such persons shall be answerable for the same in such manner as they were before the passing of this act.

If arrested,
may be dis-
charged, &c.

XIV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That each insolvent debtor shall pay to the register of the court of chancery the sum of five dollars, to be paid to the chancellor.

Debtors to pay,
&c.

XV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all proceedings in chancery under this act shall be recorded by the register, who shall be entitled to the same fees as are fixed by law for services in other cases, which shall be paid at the time of obtaining the discharge.

Proceedings to
be recorded,
&c.

XVI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in all appointments of trustees under this act by the chancellor, in the room of any person before appointed, the chancellor shall consult the creditors, and govern himself by the choice of a majority of them in value, unless upon notice being given by public advertisement, or in such manner as he shall think reasonable, the said creditors shall neglect to make such choice.

Creditors to be
consulted, &c.

XVII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any creditor, on the application of any such debtor to the chancellor, or within three months thereafter, shall allege, in writing, to the chancellor, that such debtor is an object of the bankrupt law of the United States, and is liable to be made a bankrupt under said law, the said chancellor may thereupon, at the election of the creditor making such allegation, either examine the said debtor on oath or affirmation, on interrogatories, touching the said allegations, and may compel the said debtor to produce his books of accounts, or direct an issue or issues in a summary way, without the form of an action, to determine the truth of the same; and if upon the answer of the said interrogatories, and production of said books of accounts on the trial of the said issue or issues, any such debtor shall be found to be an object of the bankrupt law of the United States, and as such liable to be proceeded against, and to be made a bankrupt, he shall be precluded from any benefit of this act.

Certain debtors
may be exam-
ined, &c.

XVIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That John Lane, of the city of Baltimore, shall be entitled to receive the full relief and benefit by the act granted to the petitioners herein before mentioned, on his complying with all the rules and conditions of such petitioners required, except that the said John Lane shall not be required to produce to the chancellor any evidence of his having resided for the two preceding years within the state of Maryland prior to the passage of this act.

J. Lane to re-
ceive relief, &c.

XIX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That none of the said debtors who do not make application as aforesaid on or before the first day of June next, shall have any benefit of this act.

Time limited.