

At a SESSION of ASSEMBLY begun and held at the CITY of ANNAPOLIS, on Tuesday, the 4th day of October, in the 13th year of the dominion of the right honourable FREDERICK, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c. and ended the 26th day of November, *annoque Domini* 1763, the following laws were enacted.

October,
1763.

HORATIO SHARPE, Esq. Governor.

CHAP. XIII.

A Supplementary act to the * act for the relief of creditors, and to prevent frauds and deceits occasioned by secret sales and mortgages, and gifts of goods and chattels.

* 1729, ch. 8.

WHEREAS it hath been found by experience, that the setting up parole gifts of negroes, and other slaves, where the donor hath retained the possession and use, is productive of disputes and law suits, and hath a tendency to introduce corruption and perjury, and that such gifts have been often established upon very slight and suspicious testimony ; for remedy thereof,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same, That from and after the end of this session of assembly, no negro or other slave, whereof the donor shall retain the use and possession, shall pass, alter or change, or any property thereof be transferred to any donee, unless the gift be by writing under the hand and seal of the donor, and acknowledged before one provincial justice, or one justice of the county where the donor shall reside, and recorded in the records of the same county within twenty days from the time of the execution thereof.

Gift of slaves to be under hand and seal, acknowledged and recorded, if donor remain in possession.

III. PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is the true intent and meaning of this act, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to make void any parole gift of any negro or other slave, where there shall be an express delivery of such slave in pursuance of such gift, and where the sole use and possession of the same shall be transferred to the donee, nor to make void any bequest of any negro or other slave by any last will and testament.

Proviso.