

Dec. Sess. 1817 } who shall on the second Monday of November, proceed to elect
 Proviso } their president, and the president and managers thus annually elect-
 ed, shall have full power and authority to make, alter or repeal,
 by-laws for their government; *Provided always*, that they are not
 inconsistent with, or repugnant to this act; and the laws of this state.

Wharfage.

7. *And be it enacted*, That the president and managers, so soon
 as the said wharf shall be finished, shall have full power to impose
 such reasonable tolls or wharfage for the use of the same, and to
 adopt such regulations for the management of the said wharf, as
 they may think right and just.

CHAPTER 226.

Passed Feb 16

Preamble.

An act relative to German and Swiss Redemptioners.

WHEREAS, it has been found that German and Swiss emigrants,
 who for the discharge of the debt contracted for their passage to
 this country, are often obliged to subject themselves to temporary
 servitude, are frequently exposed to cruel and oppressive imposi-
 tions by the masters of the vessels in which they arrive, and like-
 wise by those to whom they become servants.

A register to
 be appointed.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That
 the governor and council be and they are hereby authorised, an-
 nually to appoint, in every port of entry in this state, some trust-
 worthy person, skilled in the German and English languages, as
 register of all deeds for the apprenticeship, or for the servitude of
 German or Swiss emigrants, arriving from foreign parts at such
 port or place.

his duty.

2. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of said register,
 after he shall have taken an oath, to be administered by the clerk
 of the county court of the county wherein he shall reside, that he
 will faithfully execute the duties of his office, without prejudice,
 or partiality, to open an office, to draw up, as from time to time
 he may be required, and to see to the due and legal execution of
 the instrument of writing regulating the apprenticeship of every
 German or Swiss redemptioner, who shall after the passage of this
 law arrive within such port or place of this state, from beyond
 sea; and no indenture or writing relating to such apprenticeship
 shall be of any avail, unless the same be drawn up by said regis-
 ter, or be by him approved of.

further duty

3. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the further duty of said
 register, immediately after the execution of any indenture relative
 to the apprenticeship of any such emigrant, to transmit the same
 to the clerk of the county court of the county where such emi-
 grant shall arrive, there to be recorded, for which recording the
 said clerk shall be entitled to receive the fees usual for recording
 such writings, to be paid by the persons to whom such indenture
 shall be made; and the said register shall keep an accurate regis-
 ter or account of the name or names of every person intended or
 bound before him as aforesaid, their sex, age, time of apprentice-
 ship or servitude, the country whence they came, to whom bound,
 and transmitted by said register as aforesaid for record.

No minor to
 be indentured ex-
 cept by pa-
 rents.

4. *And be it enacted*, That no minor under the age of twenty-one
 years shall be indentured before the said register, except by his or
 her parents, or next of kin; and in default of relatives, then by