

## An ACT for the benefit of Isabella Alexander and her children.

**W**HEREAS the said Isabella, in behalf of herself and her children, by her petition to this general assembly hath set forth, that by the act of assembly by which the estate of Robert Alexander was confiscated it was directed, that two thirds of the land of Robert Alexander, in Cecil county, including one hundred acres next adjoining the town at the Head of Elk, and one half of his negroes, be sold, the residue of his land (including his late dwelling plantation) and the other half of his negroes and other property to be reserved, subject to the direction of the general assembly; that the said land and negroes, so reserved and unsold, were, by the bounty of the legislature, left in her, the said Isabella's, possession, for the support and maintenance of herself and children; but that the generous intentions of the state were in a great measure frustrated by the enemy's devastations in their rout through the country, whereby she has been disabled from cultivating and improving the said land, so as to derive from it the intended support and subsistence; that she is the mother of six children, all born within the state, five of which are sons, the other a daughter, which said children are now with her, and always continued under her care and protection, and when advanced to maturity, she humbly hopes, they will prove themselves good, faithful, and useful citizens; that her possession of the said land and negroes being by the present law precarious, and subject to be taken away when the legislature shall think proper, discourages her from the cultivation and improvement of it, and renders her less able to provide for the support and education of her said children; that a great and valuable estate has already been taken from Robert Alexander, the father of her said children, and seized, confiscated, and sold; and that the part reserved as aforesaid, and left unsold, makes but a small proportion of his said estate; and prayed that the said part may be granted to her and her children, in such manner and in such distributions as to this general assembly shall seem meet; and this general assembly hath thought proper to comply with the prayer of the said petition:

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That of the one half of the negroes of the said Robert Alexander, not sold by the commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property, and left in the possession of the said Isabella, six of the said negroes, at her choice, are hereby given to the said Isabella Alexander, for her sole and separate use, and the residue of the said negroes are hereby given to the six children of the said Robert and Isabella, to wit, William, Lawson, Robert, Araminta, Henry, and Andrew Alexander; and the said Isabella, and Andrew Buchanan, Esquire, of Baltimore county, are hereby authorized and directed to sell the said negroes at public sale for the best prices to be had, on a credit for five years, provided bonds be given, with good and sufficient security, to pay the principal when due, and the interest annually; which said bonds shall be taken in the name of the said Isabella and Andrew Buchanan, and the survivor of them, but in trust for her said children, and so to be expressed; and the said monies arising from the sale of the said negroes, and so secured to be paid, and the interest thereon, shall be equally divided between the said children.

III. And be it enacted, That all that part of the real estate of the said Robert Alexander, which was reserved by the legislature as aforesaid, and remains unsold, is hereby given to the six children of the said Robert and Isabella, to wit, William, Lawson, Robert, Araminta, Henry, and Andrew