Eastern Shore REPUBLICAN STAR OR General Advertiser.

EASTON—(MARYLAND) Printed and Published every *Tuesday Morning*, by THOMAS PERRIN SMITH, printer of the Laws of the U. States.

[VOL. 3....6.] TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 1805. [NO. 39.....309]

THE TERMS OF THE REPUBLICAN STAR *ARE* TWO DOLLARS *and* FIFTY CENTS *per annum, payable half yearly, in advance—No paper can be discontinued until the same is paid for.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *are inserted three weeks for* ONE DOLLAR *a square; and continued for* TWENTY-FIVE CENTS *per week*

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(BY AUTHORITY.)

AN ACT

For ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land, within the territory of Orleans, and the district of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person or persons, and the legal representatives of any person or persons, who on the first day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred, were resident in the territories ceded by the French Republic to the United States by the treaty of the thirtieth of April, one thousand eight hundred and three, and who had prior to the said first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, obtained from the French or Spanish governments respectively, during the time either of the said governments had the actual possession of said territories, any duly registered warrant, or order of survey for lands lying within the said territories, to which the Indian title had been extinguished, and which were on that day actually inhabited and cultivated by such person or persons, or for his or their use, shall be confirmed in their claims to such lands in the same manner as if their titles had been completed: *Provided however,* That no such incomplete title shall be confirmed, unless the person in whose name such warrant or order of survey had been granted, was at the time of its date, either the head of a family or above the age of twenty-one years; nor unless the conditions and terms on which the completion of the grant might depend, shall have been fulfilled.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That to every person, or to the legal representative or representatives of every person, who being either the head of a family or twenty-one years of age, had prior to the twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, with the permission of the proper Spanish officer, and in conformity with the laws, usages and customs of the Spanish government made an actual settlement on a tract of land within the said territories, not claimed by virtue of the preceding section, or of any Spanish or French grant made and completed before the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, and during the time the government which made such grant, had the actual possession of the said territories, and who did on the said twentieth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and three, actually inhabit and cultivate the said tract of land; the tract of land thus inhabitted and cultivated shall be granted: *Provided however,* That not more than one tract shall be thus granted to any one person, and the same shall not contain more than one mile square, together with such other and further quantity as heretofore has been allowed for the wife and family of such actual settler, agreeably to the laws, usages and customs of the Spanish government: *Provided also,* That this donation shall not be made to any person who claims any other tract of land in the said territories by virtue of any French or Spanish grant.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That for the purpose of more conveniently ascertaining the titles and claims to land in the territory ceded as aforesaid, the territory of Orleans shall be laid off into two districts, in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct: in each of which, he shall appoint, in the recess of the Senate, but who shall be nominated at their next meeting for their advice and consent, a register; who shall receive the same annual compensation, give security in the same manner, and in the same sums, and whose duties and authorities shall in every respect be the same in relation to the lands which shall hereafter be disposed of at their offices, as are by law provided with respect to the registers in the several offices established for the disposal of the lands of the United States, north of the river Ohio and above the mouth of Kentucky river. The President of the United States shall likewise appoint a recorder of land titles in the district of Louisiana, who shall give security in the same manner and in the same sums, and shall be entitled to the same annual compensation, as the registers of the several land offices.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That every person claiming lands in the above mentioned territories, by virtue of any legal French or Spanish grant, made and completed before the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, and during the time the government which made such grant, had the actual possession of the territories, may, and every person claiming lands in the said territories, by virtue of the two first sections of this act, or by virtue of any grant or incomplete title bearing date subsequent to the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, shall before the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and six, deliver to the register of the land office, or recorder of land titles, within whose district the land may be, a notice in writing, stating the nature and extent of his claims, together with a plat of the tract or tracts claimed; and shall also, on or before that day, deliver to the said Register or Recorder, for the purpose of being recorded, every grant, order of survey, deed, conveyance or other written evidence of his claim; and the same shall be recorded by the Register or Recorder, or by the translator herein after mentioned, in books to be kept by them for that purpose, on receiving from the parties at the rate of twelve and a half cents for every hundred words contained in such written evidence of their claim; *Provided however,* That where lands are claimed by virtue of a complete French or Spanish grant as aforesaid, it shall not be necessary for the claimant to have any other evidence of his claim recorded, except the original grant or patent, together with the warrant or order of survey and the plat; but all the other conveyances or deeds shall be deposited with the Register or Recorder to be by them laid before the commissioners hereinafter directed to be appointed, when they shall take the claim into consideration. And if such person shall neglect to deliver such notice in writing of his claim, together with a plat as aforesaid, or cause to be recorded such written evidence of the same, all his right so far as the same is derived from the two first sections of this act, shall become void, and forever thereafter be barred; nor shall any incomplete grant, warrant, order of survey, deed of conveyance, or other written evidence which shall not be recorded, as above directed, ever after be considered, or admitted as evidence in any court of the United States, against any grant derived from the United States. The said Register and Recorder shall commence the duties hereby enjoined on them, on or before the first day of September next, and continue to discharge the same, at such place in their respective districts, as the President of the United States shall direct.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That two persons to be appointed, by the President alone, for the district of Louisiana, and two persons, to be in the same manner appointed for each of the districts directed by this act to be laid off in the territory of Orleans, shall together with the Register or Recorder of the district for which they may be appointed, be commissioners for the purpose of ascertaining within their respective districts the rights of persons claiming under any French or Spanish grant as aforesaid, or under the two first sections of this act. The said commissioners shall previous to their entering on the duties of their appointments, respectively take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation before some person qualified to administer the same: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will impartially exercise and discharge the duties imposed on me by an act of Congress, entitled, 'An act for ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana, to the best of my skill and judgment;" It shall be the duty of the said commissioners to meet in their respective districts, at such place as the President shall have directed therein, for the residence of the Register or Recorder, on or before the first day of December next, and they shall not adjourn to any other place, nor for a longer time than three days until the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and six, and until they shall have completed the business of their appointment. Each board, or a majority of each board, shall in their respective districts, have power to hear and decide in a summary manner all matters respecting such claims, also to administer oaths to compel the attendance of, and examine witnesses, and such other testimony as may be adduced to demand and obtain from the proper officer and officers, all public records in which grants of land, warrants, or orders of survey, or any other evidence of claims to land, derived from either the French or Spanish governments may have been recorded; to take transcripts of such record or records, or of any part thereof, to have access to all other records of a public nature, relative to the granting, sale, transfer, or titles of lands, within their respective districts; and to decide in a summary way, according to justice and equity, on all claims filed with the register or recorder in conformity with the previsions of this act, and on all complete French or Spanish grants, the evidence of which, though not thus filed, may be found of record on the public records of such grants; which decisions shall be laid before Congress, in the manner herein after directed, and be subject to their determination thereon; Provided however, that nothing in this act contained, shall be construed so as to recognise any grant or incomplete title bearing date subsequent to the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred, or to authorise the commissionres aforesaid to make any decisions thereon. The said boards respectively shall have power to appoint a clerk whose duty it shall be to enter in a book to be kept for that purpose, full and correct minutes of their proceedings and decisions, together with the evidence on which such decisions are made, which books and papers, on the dissolution of the boards, shall be deposited in the respective offices of the registers of the land offices, or of the recorder of land titles of the district; and the said clerk shall prepare two transcripts of all the decisions made by the commissioners in favor of the claimants to land; both of which shall be signed by a majority of the said commissioners and one of which shall be transmitted to the officer exercising in the district the authority of surveyor general; and the other to the secretary of the Treasury. It shall likewise be the duty of the said commissioners to make to the secretary of the treasury a full report of all the claims filed with the register of the proper land office, or recorder of land titles as above directed, which may have been rejected, together with the substance of the evidence adduced in support thereof, and such remarks thereon as they may think proper; which reports together with the transcripts of the decisions of the commissioners in favor of the claimants, shall be laid by the secretary of the treasury before Congress at their next ensuing meeting. When any Spanish or French grant, warrant, or order of survey, as aforesaid, shall be produced to either of the said boards, for lands which were not at the date of such grant, warrant, or order of survey, or within one year thereafter, inhabited, cultivated, or occupied, by or for the use of the grantee; or whenever either of the said boards shall not be satisfied that such grant, warrant, or order of survey, did issue at the time when the same bears date, but that the same as antedated or otherwise fraudulent; the said commissioners shall not be bound to consider such grant, warrant, or order of survey, as conclusive evidence of the title; but may require such other proof of its validity as they may deem proper. Each of the commissioners and clerks aforesaid shall be allowed a compensation of two thousand dollars in full for his services as such; and each of the said clerks shall, previous to his entering on the duties of his office, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation—to wit: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly and faithfully discharge the duties of a clerk to the board of commissioners, for examining the claims to land, as enjoined by an act of Congress entitled "An act ascertaining and adjusting the titles and claims to land within the territory of Orleans, and the district of Louisiana." Which oath or affirmation shall be entered on the minutes of the board.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the secretary of the treasury shall be, and he is hereby authorized to employ three agents, one for each board, and whose compensation shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars each for the purpose of appearing before the commissioners, in behalf of the United States, to investigate the claims for lands, and to oppose all such as said agents may deem fraudulent and unfounded. It shall also be the duty of the said agent for the district of Louisiana, to examine into, and investigate the titles and claims, if any there be, to the lead mines within the said district to collect all the evidence within his power with respect to the claims to, and value of the said mines, and to lay the same before the commissioners, who shall make a special report thereof, with their opinions thereon to the secretary of the treasury, to be by him laid before congress at their next ensuing session.—The said board of commissioners shall each be authorized to employ a translator of the Spanish and French langages to assist them in the dispatch of the business which may be brought before them, and for the purpose of recording Spanish and French grants, deeds, or other evidence of claims on the registers books. The said translator shall receive, for the recording done by him, the fees already provided by law, and may be allowed, not exceeding fifty dollars, for every month he shall be employed; provided that the whole compensation other than that arising from fees, shall not exceed six hundred dollars.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the powers vested by law in the surveyor of the lands of the United States south of the state of Tennessee, shall extend over all the public lands of the United States, to which the Indian title has been, or shall hereafter be extinguished, within the said territory of Orleans; and it shall be the duty of the said surveyor, to cause such of the said lands as the President of the United States shall expressly direct, to be surveyed and divided, as nearly as the nature of the country will admit, in the same manner, and under the same regulations as is provided by law, in relation to the lands of the United States north west of the River Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky River.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the location or locations of lands which Major General La Fayette is by law authorised to make on any lands, the property of the United States, in the territory of Orleans, shall be made with the Register or Registers of the land offices established by this act in the said territory; the surveys thereof shall be executed under the authority of the surveyor of the United States, south of Tennessee; and a patent or patents therefor shall issue, on presenting such surveys to the secretary of the treasury, together with a certificate of the proper registers, stating that the land is not rightfully claimed by any other person: *provided,* That no location or survey made by virtue of this section shall contain less than one thousand acres, nor include any improved lands or lots, salt spring or lead mine.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, to be paid out of any unappropriated monies in the treasury, be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of carrying this act into effect.

NATHL. MACON,
speaker of the House of Representatives.

A. BURR,
Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

March 2, 1805.—APPROVD,
TH: JEFFERSON.

A Bargain in Lands.
FOR SALE,

ABOUT nine hundred acres of LAND lying and being in Kent county, in the state of *Delaware,* within six miles of Choptank bridge, ten miles of Denton, in Caroline county and state of Maryland—within twelve miles of Frederica Landing, and fourteen miles of Milford, on the waters of *Delaware.* This land is divided into three tenements, on one of which the subscriber resides. In the whole, there are about three hundred acres of arable land, which is well adapted to the growth of Indian corn, wheat, tobacco, flax, hemp, clover, or any kind of grass; the remainder is woodland, well covered with white oak timber. A person wishing to pursue the farming business, may now have an opportunity to purchase land to advantage—the lands are very strong, and when improved, bring very luxuriant crops. Only one sixth of the purchase money will be required, in hand, and the residue, with interest at very convenient annual payments, to suit the purchaser. The subscriber wishing to remove to a commercial city, prefers bonds to land to tenant out. For further particulars, enquire on the premises, of *W. HUGHLETT.*

June 18, 1805. 3m

BLANKS
FOR SALE,
AT THE STAR-OFFICE.

Fifty Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the plantation of Mr. John Browne, in the neighborhood of Centreville, Queen Ann's county, on Saturday the 25th ult. negro ISAAC, the property of the subscriber, living near Queen's-town, in said county.—Isaac is a remarkable short, stout fellow, very black, with thick lips and down look, about the age of 27 or 28 years; is thought to have gone to the city of Baltimore, where he has been several times; the clothing taken with him are chiefly linen of country manufacture. The subscriber will give 20 dollars for taking up and bringing home said runaway if found within the county, thirty dollars if out of the county and within the state of Maryland, if secured in jail so that his owner gets him again, and the above reward if apprehended and secured as aforesaid if found out of the state of Maryland.

ELEANOR TILGHMAN.

July 2, 1805. 2m

One hundred Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY on the 21st day of June last from the subscriber's Farm on Wye river, a negro man named JIM WYE, or Jim Smith, aged about 32 years; he is a very black, smart, active, well-made fellow, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, with a broad face and flat about the cheek bones, but full towards the lower parts of his cheeks; I am told that he has a scar in his face, but as I never observed it, I cannot say that it is certainly the case. He is a good humoured, cheerful fellow, and complaisant when spoken to. If the above mentioned negro is taken up in this state, and safely lodged in the jail at Easton or Centreville, thirty dollars will be paid, and if taken up out of the state and secured in the jail of either of the above mentioned places, so that I get him again, the above reward shall be paid by

EDWARD COURSEY.

Wye River, Queen Ann's county, Md. July 23, 1805. } tf

One Hundred Dollars Reward.

RUNAWAY from the subscriber on Monday the 8th inst. a negro man called PERRY, about 24 years of age, of a black complexion, and about 5 feet 8 or 10 inches high, stout and well made, and is of an obedient, humble disposition when spoken to. His clothing were a round over jacket and pantaletts of white country kersey, but am informed that he had and took with him some other clothing, and may change his dress and name, and may want to pass for a free man, as I am of the opinion that he has obtained a pass from some person or other. Whoever will take up the said negro and secure him in any goal and give me information so that I get him again, shall receive the above reward and all reasonable charges paid if brought home, by *THOMAS CECILL.*

Head of Wye, Queen Ann's county, April 16, 1805 } 3qifnt6m

Runaway Negro.

WAS committed to the jail of Frederick county, as a runaway, on the 28th day of last June, a negro man who says his name is BEN JOHNSON: He is about 30 years old; is 6 feet one inch high; and has a scar above his left eye. His clothes are one check and two linen shirts; one red cassimere and one striped jacket; one pair of blue, one pair of nankeen, and one pair of Osnaburg overalls; two pair of stockings; one brown cloth coat; two round about jackets with sleeves; and one fur hat. His owner is desired to release him, or he will be sold for his jail fees agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, Sheriff of Frederick county.

July 23, 1805. 8

Runaway Negro.

WAS committed to the jail of Frederick county, Maryland, on the 19th day of May last past, a runaway, a negro man named JIM, who says he is the property of a certain *John Chew Thomas.* He is about 23 years of age, five feet three inches high; has thick lips and long wool; his left hand and wrist have been considerably injured by a waggon. His clothes are, a striped gingham sailor jacket, a swansdown waistcoat, white cassimere small clothes, woollen stockings, an old fur hat, and a muslin shirt. His owner is desired to release him, or he will be sold for his jail fees agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, Sheriff of Frederick County.

June 18, 1805. 8w

Twenty Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, living in Talbot county, state of Maryland, a negro man, who calls himself WILL HOPPER, formerly the property of Mr *John Singleton* of said county, aged about 35 years, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches high, his clothing unknown. Whoever takes up said negro and secures him in any goal in this state so that the owner gets him again, shall receive the above reward, paid by ROBERT SPEDDIN.

April 13, 1805. tf