

179

passed to be engrossed

HOUSE.....No. 29.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred
and Thirty.

AN ACT

To enable Aliens to purchase and hold lands, within
this Commonwealth in certain cases.

1 **SECT. 1.** **BE** *it enacted by the Senate and House of*
2 *Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the*
3 *authority of the same,* That any person, not a citizen
4 of the United States, who now resides, or may here-
5 after reside, within this Commonwealth, shall, and
6 may be permitted to purchase, hold and convey any
7 lands, tenements, and hereditaments within the same;

8 as estate of freehold, and inheritance ; and may sell
9 and convey the same, in fee simple, for life or years ;
10 and may devise the same by will, and if he shall die
11 intestate, the same shall be distributed to, and
12 among the widow and next of kin of such intestate,
13 in the same manner as if such intestate had been, at
14 the time of his decease, a citizen of the United
15 States ; *provided, however,* that the said Grantees
16 shall always be, at the time of such grants, and de-
17 vises, or at the decease of such intestate, residents
18 within this Commonwealth. *Provided, always,* That
19 all such aliens holding any interest in real estate, as
20 aforesaid, shall be liable to taxation for their polls
21 and estates, in the same manner as citizens of this
22 Commonwealth are, or may be, liable by law to be
23 taxed.

The following Section is reported as an amend-
ment by the Committee on Matters of Probate and
Chancery.

1 SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That any alien, or
2 person born out of the allegiance of this State, and
3 of the United States, whose father or mother, at the
4 time of his or her decease, shall be a citizen of the
5 United States, shall be capable of taking, and hold-
6 ing by descent or devise from such parent any
7 lands, tenements, and hereditaments, within this
8 Commonwealth, whereof such parent shall die seiz-

9 ed; and may sell, and dispose of the same, in fee
 10 simple, or for life or years, and may devise the same
 11 by will. And if such alien, or person born as afore-
 12 said, shall die intestate, such lands, tenements and
 13 hereditaments shall be distributed among the widow,
 14 and next of kin of such intestate, in the same man-
 15 ner, as if such intestate had been a citizen of the
 16 United States: *Provided*, nevertheless, that nothing
 17 in this act contained shall entitle any alien to any
 18 political or civil rights or privileges, to which he
 19 would not be entitled if this act had not been made.