

much longer line of wharf, and thus 'conduce much to the advantage of that part of Baltimore town;' and that with a view to this, and other advantages, the streets, lanes, and alleys, which had been previously laid out over this ground, were to be altered and laid out anew. And it appears that a large building had been erected, and was then used as a market-house, and for other public purposes, on a lot, not a part of the marshy ground, which had been leased by Baltimore town. A recollection of the provisions of these legislative enactments, is necessary to a correct understanding of that which follows.

In the year 1784, it was represented to the General Assembly, that the then market-house of Baltimore was insufficient for the use of the town; and that two convenient places might be had for erecting market-houses, 'the one on that part of Baltimore town commonly called Harrison's marsh, and the other to the westward of the basin.' Whereupon it was enacted, that *Samuel Smith* and others, 'or a major part of them, shall have full power and authority by this act to build and erect a market-house on a parcel of ground situate in the said town, opposite Harrison street, beginning on Baltimore street, and running thence south, parallel with Gay street, of the width of one hundred and fifty feet, to Water street, with the privilege of extending the same to the channel; and that the said market-house, when erected, and the ground whereon the same shall be built, with the privilege aforesaid, shall be, and is hereby declared to be vested in the commissioners of Baltimore town, and their successors, forever, from and immediately after the said market-house shall be built and erected, to hold, possess, and enjoy the same market-house, ground, and privilege aforesaid, to and for the use and benefit of the said town, in as full and ample manner as if the said commissioners had been legally constituted a body politic and corporate in deed and in name.' (k) And it was further declared in the same act, that the commissioners of Baltimore town, as soon as convenient, 'after the new market-house on the said marsh shall be extended and built up, for the length of three hundred feet from Baltimore street, to lay off the ground which was heretofore leased for the use of the present market-house into convenient lots, and the same, together with the buildings thereon, set up and expose to public sale to the highest bidder, under such conditions as they may