

## C H A P. XVII.

An ACT to empower the justices of Montgomery county to assess and levy a sum of money on the inhabitants of said county, for the purposes therein mentioned.

The sum to be levied is £.800, at two equal assessments, in 1785 and 1786. It is to be paid to the commissioners appointed by an act of the convention on the 6th of September, 1776, for building a court-house and prison, and by them applied to the purposes of their appointment.

## C H A P. XVIII.

A Bill, entitled, An ACT for underpinning and arching the court-house, of Baltimore county, in Baltimore-town, and the extension of Calvert-street.

**W**HEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that the court-house in the town of Baltimore, by its position on a hill about twenty feet above the pitch of Calvert-street, and by crossing the street in a due east and west course, checks the town both in its growth and prosperity, inasmuch as the extent of Calvert-street is limited by the court-house, and all direct intercourse with the country thereby prevented: And whereas it is represented, that the said court-house, by being underpinned and arched, that is to say, by three arches added to the building on the south side, and an equal number of corresponding arches on the north side, the center arches to be twenty-eight feet in the clear and eighteen feet high, the others six feet in the clear and twelve feet high, or thereabout, would thereby open a direct communication with the country, and permit the pitch of the street to be continued without damage to the said court-house, and that persons are disposed to undertake the same at their own expence and risk: And whereas this general assembly is desirous to promote an undertaking of so laudable a nature: Therefore,

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the justices of Baltimore county court, or any three or more of them, are hereby empowered and directed, when called on by the person or persons, who may or shall undertake, at his or their own expence and risk, to underpin and arch the court-house, in Calvert-street, in Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, to take a bond, in the name of the justices of Baltimore county, with sufficient security, to be approved of by the said court of Baltimore county, from such person or persons, to oblige and bind such person or persons to arch the said court-house, the said person or persons to arch the same with three arches on the south side of the said court-house, and an equal number of corresponding arches on the north side, the center corresponding arches to be twenty-eight feet in the clear and eighteen feet high each, or thereabout, the other arches six feet in clear and twelve feet high each, or thereabout, and the whole to complete with good and sufficient materials in a reasonable time, so that the pitch of Calvert-street may be continued through the court-house aforesaid by means of the said arches and underpinning; and in case any damage or injury shall be done to the said court-house by or during the progress of the said work, that the person or persons, bound as aforesaid, shall and will repair the same at his or their own proper costs and expence; and in case the said building shall be thrown or fall down in consequence of the aforesaid underpinning or arching, or undertaking and attempting to arch and underpin the court-house as aforesaid, or its foundation be rendered thereby less secure, the aforesaid person or persons shall and will pay to the justices of Baltimore county aforesaid, the sum of ten thousand pounds current money, so much thereof as is necessary for the purpose to be laid out by the said justices in building a new court-house of equal value with the present court-house, or in making the said foundation secure, and in paying and discharging all expences whatsoever, which may be incurred by the county of Baltimore, in consequence of any damage or accident to the said court-house or its foundation, arising from the undertaking aforesaid; and the residue, if any, of the said sum, to be by the said justices repaid to the person or persons bound as aforesaid; and the said justices shall and may, in their names, bring suit on the said bond, and the same prosecute to judgment and execution, for the recovery of the said sum of money or any part thereof, to be applied to the purposes aforesaid.