

## C H A P. XLII.

Passed December 23.

An ACT to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government as prevent a citizen from taking a seat in the legislature, or being an elector of the senate, without taking an oath to the support of this government.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS certain citizens of this state hold it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion; and an attachment to the community, and a profession of support to this government, may be as well and fully evinced by a solemn affirmation or declaration of support to this government as by an oath; and it is highly improper to restrain the people in their choice of delegates, and electors of the senate, further than the security of the state may require:

Parts of the constitution repealed, &amp;c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all those parts of the constitution and form of government that prevent a citizen, conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath in any case, and who are permitted by the constitution to affirm in certain cases, from taking a seat in the legislature, or from being an elector of the senate, without taking an oath of support to this government, shall be and hereby are repealed, abrogated, and made null and void; and hereafter a solemn affirmation or declaration of support to this government may be taken, and shall be received in stead of an oath, by any citizen chosen a delegate or elector of the senate, conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath in any case, and who is permitted by the constitution to affirm in certain cases.

## C H A P. XLIII.

Passed December 23.

An ACT to enable the inhabitants of Saint Paul's parish, in Queen-Anne's county, to elect vestrymen and churchwardens for said parish.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS the inhabitants of Saint Paul's parish, in Queen-Anne's county, neglected to meet and elect vestrymen and churchwardens for the said parish, agreeably to the act for the establishment of select vestries;

Inhabitants to meet, &amp;c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the inhabitants of the said parish be and are hereby empowered to meet at their parish church on Easter Monday next, and there proceed to choose vestrymen and churchwardens in as ample and full a manner as they could have done under the act aforesaid; and the vestrymen and churchwardens, when so chosen, shall have, and are hereby declared to be vested with, all the power and authority of select vestries under and in virtue of the laws of this state, and shall be subject to the same regulations and penalties.

## C H A P. XLIV.

Passed December 23.

An ACT to dispose of the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland, in Washington county, and to fulfil the engagements made by this state to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland line in the service of the United States.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS by an act, entitled, An act for recruiting the quota of troops of this state in the American army, and furnishing them with cloathing and other necessaries, passed at a session of assembly begun and held at the city of Annapolis on Friday the thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and by sundry subsequent acts, it was provided, that a bounty of fifty acres of land should be granted to each able bodied recruit who should enlist and faithfully serve for three years in the American army; and by the said first recited act it was provided, that the said bounty should be paid to each recruit, or his legal representative, at the expiration of three years from the time of enlistment, in such manner as the general assembly should thereafter direct; and by the said act, and other subsequent