

An act, entitled, An ACT to authorise and empower the proprietors of Cranberry-swamp, in Harford county, to reclaim and drain the same.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by Josias William Dallam, Philip Henderson, William Smith, James White Hall, Samuel Griffith, Luke Griffith, Richard Dallam, and John Hall, of Harford county, that they are seised in fee and in possession of the greatest part of a swamp in Harford county, called The Cranberry-swamp, which, in its present unreclaimed state, being at divers times covered with stagnated waters, proves very injurious to the health of the inhabitants residing contiguous thereto: And whereas it is further represented, that several proprietors neglect and refuse to contribute towards draining off the waters from and reclaiming the said swamp; and, to make any part of the said swamp of utility to the proprietors thereof, and to remove effectually the nuisance aforesaid, it will be necessary, that the whole of the said swamp should be ditched and drained; and therefore they the said petitioners prayed that a law might pass for the purposes aforesaid,

Proprietors to meet, &c.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for the proprietors of Cranberry-swamp, in Harford county, or a major part of them, to meet on the first Monday of March in each and every year hereafter, at Havre de Grace, in Harford county aforesaid, and then and there annually elect by ballot three of the said proprietors for directors, who, when so elected and chosen, are hereby authorised and empowered to make and open sufficient drains and ditches through the said swamp and every part thereof, so as effectually to carry off the stagnated waters from the same, and remove the nuisance aforesaid, and reduce the said swamp into dry land; and the power and authority of the said three directors first chosen shall continue and be in force for the space of one year from the time of their appointment, and no longer, unless re-elected by the said proprietors, or a major part of them, at their annual meeting.

Directors to keep an account, &c.

III. Be it further enacted, That the three directors, from time to time to be elected as aforesaid, shall keep a just, faithful and regular account of all and every the costs, charges, and expences, arising from opening and cutting the ditches and drains aforesaid, and the same settle and adjust at the end of every three months, and apportion and assess the amount thereof on each and every proprietor of the said swamp, according to the quantity of acres they and each of them respectively hold; which said sums of money, so apportioned and assessed, it shall and may be lawful for the directors for the time being, in the name of the proprietors of the Cranberry-swamp, as a body politic, to ask, demand, receive, and, in case of refusal, to sue for and recover, of and from each and every of the proprietors of the said swamp, their heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, who shall neglect or refuse to pay the sum or sums of money so rated and assessed on them, or either of them, as aforesaid, and so from time to time till the said swamp be effectually drained and the nuisance aforesaid removed; in which said suits, so to be instituted and prosecuted, it shall and may be lawful for the said directors to declare generally for money laid out and expended for the defendant's use, and give this act and the special matter in evidence; and on which said suits, so to be prosecuted, there shall be allowed the defendant or defendants only one emparlance.

IV. And