

C H A P. III. owner or owners thereof shall pay the sum of five shillings for every hog, goat, or half dozen geese, and a proportionable sum for every goose, so taken up, one half for the use of the person or persons taking up and securing the same, and the other half for the use of the poor in said county; and in case the owner or owners of swine, goats or geese, seized and secured as aforesaid, shall not, within three days after notice of such seizure, pay the aforesaid sum of five shillings for every hog, goat, or half dozen geese, and in proportion for every goose, seized as aforesaid, to the person or persons seizing the same, in such case the whole of such seizure shall be absolutely forfeited for the uses aforesaid, and it shall be lawful for the person or persons seizing to sell the same by public vendue at the market-house in said town, between nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon of the market-day next ensuing, and to apply the monies arising from such sale to the uses aforesaid.

Money to be paid over, &c. III. **And be it enacted,** That if any person or persons receiving money under this act, shall not, within ten days after the receipt thereof, pay over to the trustees of the poor of Cecil county one half of the money so received, such person or persons shall forfeit the whole of the money so received for the use of the poor of said county, which money so forfeited may be recovered by the trustees aforesaid in the same manner as other debts due the trustees may be.

Penalty on taking swine, &c. by force, &c. IV. **And be it enacted,** That if any person or persons shall, by violence or force, take swine, goats or geese, or any of them, out of the possession of any person or persons seizing and securing the same by virtue of this act, without first paying as aforesaid, and shall be thereof convicted either by confession or verdict, such person or persons shall be fined in the sum of ten pounds current money for every such offence.

Defendant may plead, &c. V. **And be it enacted,** That if any person or persons shall be sued or impleaded for any thing done by virtue of this act, the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, and if the plaintiff shall be nonsuit, or discontinue his suit, he shall pay treble costs, and such damages as the court shall adjudge.

C H A P. IV.

An ACT to encourage the destroying of wolves.

Passed December 22. Preamble.

WHEREAS it appears to this general assembly, that wolves are very numerous and mischievous in many of the counties in this state, and that they destroy great numbers of sheep:

Justices to give a certificate, &c.

II. **Be it enacted,** by the General Assembly of Maryland, That when and as often as any credible free person or persons shall bring before any justice of the peace, within any of the counties of this state, the head or heads of any wolf or wolves, and make oath (or affirmation) that the wolf or wolves of which he or they produce the head or heads, were actually caught and killed within the limits of that county in which he or they pray an allowance, and within six days next before the producing the same to such justice, that then such justice shall, and he is hereby authorized and directed to give such person or persons producing, a certificate for such head or heads produced and proved as aforesaid, and in such certificate to mention the oath (or affirmation) taken, and therein distinguishing which or how many of the heads of the old or young wolves; and every justice who shall have any wolf's head or heads brought before him by any person or persons as aforesaid, shall be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to judge of the age of the said wolf or wolves, of which the head or heads was brought before him, and if such justice shall believe the age of such wolf or wolves to exceed six months, that then he shall distinguish the same in his certificate by the words old wolf or wolves; and that every justice, before whom any wolf's head is brought, and by whom a certificate shall be given as aforesaid, is hereby authorized and directed immediately to cause the ears to be cut off, and the tongue taken out, of and from the head or heads of such wolf or wolves,