

Passed Jan 4, 1812.

Deauble

*An Act for the encouragement of Learning in Cecil County. Lib. TH. No. 3, fol. 196.*

WHEREAS application has been made to this general assembly by certain inhabitants of Cecil county, that a law may pass establishing an academy near Lower West Nottingham Presbyterian meeting-house, in said county: And whereas the establishment of seminaries for the education of youth in this, as well as other counties, has been of essential benefit to society, by bringing forward a succession of able and virtuous characters qualified to discharge the various duties of public and private life: And whereas, the general diffusion of scientific knowledge through such means, is the more essentially necessary in a country like ours, the perpetuity of whose happy government materially depends upon the religion, virtue and patriotism of the people at large, from whom all power in relation to the government emanates, and before whom public men and measures are daily passing in judgment, and who are eligible in one way or other to the most important trusts and offices both in church and state, trusts and offices that require the utmost extent of human acquisition; therefore,

An academy to be erected.

1. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That there be erected, and hereby is erected and established near Lower West Nottingham Presbyterian meeting-house, in West Nottingham hundred, Cecil county, an academy for the liberal education of youth in such sciences and branches of learning as the trustees and professors thereof shall from time to time think useful and expedient for the benefit and advancement of the institution; and the said academy shall be regulated under the management, direction and government of fifteen trustees, and be perpetuated in the manner herein after mentioned.

Trustees appointed and declared a corporation and body politic.

2. AND BE IT ENACTED, That George Gale, Thomas W. Veazey, Robert Archer, John Groome, Samuel C. Hall, William C. Miller, Robert Evans, David Patton, John Tray, James Sims, George Kidd, James Maxwell, John Creswell, Henry W. Physick and the Reverend James Magraw, be and they are hereby appointed trustees of the said academy, and the said trustees, and the successors to be elected in the manner herein after mentioned, shall be, and they are hereby erected, established and declared to be, one community, corporation and body politic, with perpetual succession in deed and in law, to all intents and purposes connected with the said institution, by the name and style of The West Nottingham Academy in Cecil county; by which name and title, they, the said trustees and their successors, shall be competent and capable in law and in equality, to take and to hold to themselves and their successors for the use of the said academy, any estate in any messuages, lands and tenements, annuities, goods, chattels, monies or effects, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, devise or bequest, of any person or persons whatsoever, provided the same do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of five thousand dollars; and the same messuages, lands and tenements, and other estate real and personal, to farm-let and put out on interest for the use of the said academy, in such manner as to them, or a majority of them, shall seem most beneficial to the institution, and to receive the rents, issues, profits, income and interest of the same, and to