

CHAP. XLII.

10. AND, whereas it is necessary for the greater effect of the preaching of the Gospel, that men should be permitted to employ and sit under the teaching of those whom they had or esteem most capable of instructing them, and enforcing the precepts of religious truth, in whose character and faithfulness they have most confidence; therefore, **BE IT ENACTED**, That where any number of persons belonging to any church or congregation sufficient to build a church or house of worship, and to maintain a minister, shall choose to separate from the church or congregation of which they have hitherto been a part, and to erect a house of worship, and employ a minister for themselves, it shall be lawful for them so to do, and they shall, by their respective name or style, be entitled to all the benefits of this act as aforesaid, any thing in the act for the establishment of vestries for each parish in this state to the contrary notwithstanding, provided only, that all arrears, debts and engagements, contracted, due, or becoming due, while members of the former society, shall be punctually and faithfully discharged.

Persons may separate from a church, erect a house of worship, and employ a minister.

Part of an act declared void.
* 1798, ch. 24.

Not to repeal a former act, &c.

Nor to affect the rights of conscience.

11. AND BE IT ENACTED, That so much of the act* for the establishment of vestries for each parish in this state as confers the powers of civil officers of the peace upon churchwardens, be and the same are hereby declared null and void.

12. AND BE IT ENACTED, That this act shall not repeal any part of the act for the establishment of vestries for each parish in this state, except so far as the same is inconsistent with the tenth and eleventh sections of this act.

13. AND BE IT ENACTED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed, adjudged or taken, to abridge or affect the rights of conscience or private judgment, or in the least to alter or change the religious constitution or government of any church, congregation or society, so far as respects, or in any wise concerns, doctrine, discipline or worship.

CHAP. CXII.

Passed Jan. 10,
1803.
† Ch. 97.

A Supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry Insolvent Debtors. Lib. JG. No. 4, fol. 343.*

This act included the names of John Smith, of the city of Annapolis, William Finn and Benjamin M. M-Caskey, of the city of Baltimore.

See note under ch. 97.

CHAP. CXIII.

Passed Jan. 10,
1803.

An Act granting a Loan of Money to the Trustees of Charlotte Hall School. Lib. JG. No. 4, fol. 343.

A Supplement, November 1812. ch. 22.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by the memorial of the trustees of Charlotte Hall school, that from the number of pupils now at said school great inconvenience is sustained from the want of necessary buildings, and particularly a residence for the principal, and they have prayed a loan of money from the state to obviate such difficulties, and promote the interest of a flourishing seminary; therefore,

One thousand pounds directed to be paid trustees by treasurer.

2. **BE IT ENACTED**, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby directed to pay to the trustees of Charlotte Hall school, or their order, on or before the first day of April next, the sum of one thousand pounds,