

C H A P.  
VIII.

up the seat and place of such deceased, removed, or absenting member, having special regard that, in the room of a deceased, removed, or absenting visitor and governor from any particular county, another of the same county be always chosen in his room and stead.

When the college is to be incorporated, &c.

III. **And be it enacted,** That when ten visitors and governors of the said intended college shall be chosen as aforesaid, in addition to the visitors of Kent county school for the time being, and when the said seventeen visitors and governors shall, by an instrument of writing under their hands to the general assembly of this state directed and duly delivered, declare that they are willing and desirous to take upon them and to discharge the trust of visitors and governors of the said intended college, and that an estate, or sum and sums of money not less than five thousand pounds current money, or the just value thereof (including the estate of the said Kent county school) is in their hands, or so secured to be paid to them, that they will answer for the value thereof, and the application of the same towards founding, endowing and supporting, the said intended college, according to their best judgment and the tenor of this act, provided always, that such instrument of writing be lodged with the general assembly, as aforesaid, within five years after the passing of this act; that then and in such case the said seventeen visitors and governors, and such other person and persons as they shall choose to make up and perpetuate the number of twenty-four, agreeable to the tenor hereof, shall be, and are hereby declared to be, one community, corporation and body politic, to have continuance for ever, by the name of the visitors and governors of Washington college, in the state of Maryland, in honourable and perpetual memory of his Excellency General Washington, the illustrious and virtuous commander in chief of the armies of the United States, and by the same name they shall have perpetual succession; provided nevertheless, that seventeen of the said visitors and governors shall always be residents on the eastern shore of this state, but that the seven additional visitors and governors (to make up and perpetuate the number of twenty-four) may be chosen from this or any part of the adjacent states, if they are such persons as can reasonably undertake to attend the quarterly visitations, and are thought capable, by their particular learning, weight and character, to advance the interest and reputation of the said seminary.

Visitors may purchase land, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That the said visitors and governors, and their successors, by the same name, shall be able and capable in law to purchase, have and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee, or for any other lesser estate or estates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, pensions, or other hereditaments, within this state, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise, of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make the same; and such lands, tenements, rents, annuities, pensions, or other hereditaments, or any lesser estates, rights or interests, of or in the same (excepting the estate of the said Kent county school) at their pleasure to grant, alien, sell and transfer, in such manner and form as they shall think meet and convenient for the furtherance of the said college; and also that they may take and receive any sum or sums of money, and any kind, manner or portion, of goods and chattels that shall be given, sold or bequeathed, to them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make a gift, sale or bequest thereof, and employ the same towards erecting, setting up and maintaining, the said college, in such manner as they shall judge most necessary and convenient for the instruction, improvement and education, of youth, in the vernacular and learned languages, and generally in any kind of literature, arts and sciences, which they shall think proper to be taught, for training up good, useful and accomplished men, for the service of their country in church and state; and youth of all religious denominations and persuasions shall be freely and liberally admitted to equal privileges and advantages of education, and to all the literary honours of the college, according to their merit, and the standing rules of the seminary, without requiring or enforcing any religious or civil test whatsoever upon any student, scholar or member, of the said college, other than such oath of fidelity to the state as the laws thereof may require of the visitors, governors, masters, professors and teachers, in schools and seminaries of learning in general; nor shall any preference be given