

## C H A P. XIV.

## An ACT to open and establish a public road in Dorchester county.

This act constitutes three commissioners to lay out a public road, 20 feet wide, from the main road that leads from New-market to Vienna, to the grist-mill of Michael Hall Bonwill, and thence till it intersect the main road leading from Cambridge to Vienna. They shall estimate the damages to be sustained by individuals through whose grounds the road shall be opened, and these damages must be paid by the said Bonwill on a day fixed by any two of the commissioners.

The said Michael Hall Bonwill is to be at the whole expence of clearing the road, and of keeping it in order, for three years after it shall be made. After these three years the county court is to record it as a public road, appoint for it an overseer, and apportion the hands to work upon it, except that part leading over the milldam, which shall be kept by the possessor of the mill for the time being, under the penalty to which the owner of a mill, where the road passes on a dam, is subjected by the act for repairing the public roads in this province.

## C H A P. XV.

An ACT to empower Edward Downes to collect by distress and sale the arrears due for public and county assessments to the late collector of Queen-Anne's county. *PR.*

## C H A P. XVI.

A Bill, entitled, An ACT to authorise and empower Robert Ballard, administrator of the goods and chattels, rights and credits, of Jonathan Plowman, late of Baltimore county, deceased, unadministered by Rebecca Plowman and David Arnold, his executors at the time of their decease, with the will of the said Jonathan Plowman annexed. *PR.*

## C H A P. XVII.

## An ACT to raise the supplies for the ensuing year.

A tax of 15*s* is imposed on every £. 100's worth of property, to be levied by distress and sale of any goods belonging to the party, or found on the land, if not paid on or before the 1st of October next, in current money, or bank notes. Tobacco, however, instead of being assessed, is to pay 1*s* per hog-head; and every free able-bodied single man, between twenty-one and fifty years of age, whose property shall not be valued to the amount of £. 100, shall pay 15*s*, to be levied as aforesaid, or by execution of the body. And every constable, on taking the name of such a person, is required to exact security for the said 15*s*, and in case of refusal or delay, to carry him before a justice, who may commit him until payment made or security given; and if such person shall remove out of the county, it is made the duty of constables, collectors and commissioners, acquainted therewith, to give information to the collector, or to some deputy collector, or to a commissioner of the county where he may be, and any of them may arrest him, and take him before a justice, who shall commit him until the payment of 3*s* and costs.

The money arising from this tax is appropriated, in the first place, to the payment of one year's interest on specie certificates. A sum, not exceeding one half of the whole assessment, is to be remitted to congress. The residue is appropriated to the maintenance of the civil list, and to the future orders of the legislature.

N. B. It is not only excusable, but it is the duty, of every man, who regards the sacred constitution, which he is sworn to support, to protest, on all occasions, against every open breach, or artful evasion. In this act is a plain and direct violation of the 13th article of the declaration of rights; and to justify it, there is not the plea of necessity, or even of expediency; it appears too much like a combination against a wretched class of men, entered into by every other order in the community. To examine it by the test of men's feelings, it may be proper to suppose the matter reversed, and the legislature to enact, that, inasmuch as wealthy men have a greater proportion than others of superfluous property, every person whose estate shall be assessed to £. 20,000, shall pay 20 instead of 15*s* in the £. 100.

## C H A P. XVIII.

## An ACT for the relief of the christian society of people called Nicolites, or New Quakers.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS the society of people called Nicolites, or New Quakers, have, by their humble petition to this general assembly; set forth, that they labour under many great and grievous inconveniencies, owing to their conscientious scruples relative to the taking oaths in the usual form, and not being admitted to declare the truth of their knowledge by solemn affirmation; And whereas it is declared in the thirty-sixth section of the declaration of rights, that the manner of administering an oath to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination, of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being: Therefore,

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the society of people called Nicolites, or New Quakers, shall be and they are hereby entitled to, and shall have and enjoy, all the rights, privileges, immunities and franchises,

Nicolites to enjoy rights, &c. of quakers, &c.