

XII. And be it enacted, That the tenants on any manors, and the settlers on the reserves, shall have the preference of purchasing such parts of the said manors and reserves as they now severally possess or occupy, or agreeably to surveys and certificates thereof, made in pursuance of the act of April session, seventeen hundred and eighty-two, on payment of a reasonable and moderate valuation therefor, in current money, or any of the certificates aforesaid, without the improvements thereon, to be ascertained by the intendant of the revenue, or by any two of three indifferent persons, on oath, to be nominated by him; and the purchasers shall give bond, with good security, to pay the principal on or before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety, and to pay the interest annually; and if they shall refuse or neglect to purchase, the said intendant of the revenue shall sell the same on the same credit for the highest price he can procure, in current money, or any of the certificates aforesaid.

C H A P.
L V.
And other
manors and
reserves, &c.

XIII. And, if the interest received from the debtors of the state shall not be sufficient to pay the interest due the creditors of the state, Be it enacted, That the deficiency shall be made up, and paid out of the supplies for every year until the principal shall be wholly discharged.

Deficiency to
be made up,
&c.

XIV. And, as a sinking fund to secure the certain payment of all the state debts now due, with interest payable thereon, before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, Be it enacted, That annually, from the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five to the year seventeen hundred and ninety-one inclusive, a tax of two shillings and six-pence current money shall be imposed on every hundred pounds worth of property within this state, as the same shall be estimated in the said years respectively, and shall be annually paid to the treasurer of the western shore, and shall be by him kept separate and apart from all other public money, and shall be invariably appropriated to the payment of the principal and interest of the state debt; and in case the said aggregate and sinking funds shall not be sufficient to answer and satisfy the purposes to which the same are hereby applied, then and in such case, and as often as any deficiency shall happen, the public faith is hereby pledged and engaged, that such deficiency shall be provided for, answered and made good, by the general assembly; and any specie certificate granted by this state, with the interest due thereon, may be received in payment of the said tax, but no collector shall have credit therefor, before he shall make oath or affirmation, (to be administered by either of the treasurers) that he *bona fide* received the same in payment of the said tax, and any collector swearing falsely shall, on conviction, be subject to the same punishment and consequences as for wilful and corrupt perjury; and any certificate received in payment of the said tax, shall be kept with the money, and shall be examined and destroyed by a committee of both houses.

Tax to be im-
posed, &c.

XV. And, to secure the payment of the claims against the property of the Principio company admitted by the legislature, Be it enacted, That after the amount of such claims shall be ascertained and adjusted by the auditor-general, and approved by the intendant of the revenue, any such claimant may apply, before the first day of June next, to the treasurer of the western shore, for as many of the bonds taken for the sales of the property of the said Principio company as will satisfy such claim; and to determine what bonds shall be delivered, all the bonds taken on such sales shall be listed and numbered, and drawn out by the treasurer; and if any of the obligors shall bring in to the treasurer of the western shore certificates issued for specie, the said treasurer shall pay him cash to the amount thereof, or the said claimants may take certificates bearing interest to the amount of their claims, and shall be paid the same on or before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-six, out of the money paid by debtors of the state, or out of the sinking fund by this act provided.

Claimants
may apply
&c.

C H A P. LVI.

An ACT to raise the supplies for the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five.

A tax of 15^s is imposed on every £. 100's worth of property, to be levied after the first of October by distress and sale of any goods within the county, belonging to the party, and any goods whatever found