

C H A P. XLII.

An ACT to appoint a commissioner to settle the account of this state with the United States. Passed January 10. Preamble.

WHEREAS congress, by their ordinance of the thirteenth day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty-six, have established a board to liquidate and settle all accounts between the United States and individual states: And whereas claims of this state against the United States, to a very considerable amount, remain unliquidated, and the said board having withdrawn the continental commissioner of accounts for this state;

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That John White be, and he is hereby appointed, commissioner for this state, to attend the said board for the purpose of settling all accounts between this state and the United States. A commissioner appointed.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioner shall state the claims of this state against the United States, and lay them before the said board for the purpose of liquidation and settlement, and shall report to the house of delegates, at their annual meeting, the progress made therein; and to enable the said commissioner to proceed properly in the premises, he shall have free access to all the books of accounts, papers and vouchers, belonging to this state; and the auditor-general is hereby required to give every assistance in his power towards forwarding the said settlement. Who shall state claims, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That to enable the said board, or any person or persons commissioned by them, to call before them witnesses respectively, for the purpose of establishing or controverting any claim or claims where the vouchers have been lost, or never obtained, the said board, or any person or persons by them commissioned, shall have full power, within this state, to examine such witnesses on oath or affirmation, in all matters touching the claims exhibited to the said board, the said examination to be made in the presence of the said commissioner, or some person by him appointed to attend. Board may examine witnesses, &c.

V. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioner, for his trouble and expences in the said settlement, and in full compensation for all services under this act, shall receive at the rate of ninety dollars per month; and the said commissioner may employ a clerk to assist him in preparing and arranging the accounts, papers and vouchers, necessary for such settlement, and such clerk shall be allowed at the rate of thirty dollars per month; and the allowance to the said commissioner and his clerk, shall be paid quarterly out of any public money in the treasury, not appropriated by law. Allowance to commissioner, &c.

C H A P. XLIII.

An ACT respecting apprentices. Passed January 10. Preamble.

WHEREAS it would much conduce to the good of poor children in general, and especially orphans and illegitimate children, that by an efficient system they should be relieved from immediate want, and that the necessary instruction in trades and useful arts should be afforded them, so that they might be enabled with industry to advance themselves;

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the justices of the several and respective county courts, shall and may bind out every orphan child, not having or being entitled to real or personal property, the profits or increase whereof is or are not sufficient for his or her maintenance, support and education, as an apprentice to some mariner, handicraftsman, or other person, at the discretion of the said justices, until such orphan child, if a male, shall arrive to twenty-one years of age, or if a female to sixteen years of age; and the said justices are hereby directed in all cases where they can, to make it a part of the contract on the part of the master, that he shall give such orphan child reasonable education in writing and reading, or writing, reading and arithmetic, to be particularized, and also to teach such orphan, especially if a male, some useful Justices may bind out orphans, &c.