

Dec. Ses. 1823

Books to be opened.

Subscriptions payable, &c.

Stockholders privileged.

Incorporation.

at Harper's Ferry, in consequence of the rapidity of the stream, of ice, high waters, and high winds, to the great injury of the community, in order therefore to remedy those evils and inconveniences, and to promote the public weal.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it shall be lawful for Col. Stephen Steiner, James F. Houston, James Torrence, Thomas B. Hall and Casper W. Wever, to open books at such times and places as they shall think fit, and under the management of such persons as they shall appoint, for receiving subscriptions to such an amount, not exceeding thirty thousand dollars in shares of twenty dollars each, as they may deem sufficient for the erection of a Toll Bridge across the Potomac River at or near Harper's Ferry, upon such scite as may be chosen by the president and managers of the company hereinafter incorporated, or a majority of them.

2. *And be it enacted,* That the sum subscribed as aforesaid shall be paid in the manner following, viz: every subscriber at the time of subscribing shall pay two dollars for each share by him subscribed, to the person or persons appointed by this act, or by virtue of this to take subscriptions, and the remaining eighteen dollars shall be paid to the president and managers of the company incorporated by this act, in such proportions, and at such times as they shall from time to time require, of which requisition or requisitions due notice shall be given for three weeks in such newspaper or newspapers as the said president and managers may think necessary, and if any subscriber shall fail to make any of the future payments so required, his share or shares after ten days notice, shall be sold at public auction by the president and managers, and conveyed to the purchaser; and if the amount of sales shall exceed the sum or sums required after deducting the expense of the sale, the surplus shall be paid over to the original subscriber, his heirs, assigns, or lawful attorney, and if the said sales shall not produce a sum sufficient to discharge the balance due after deducting the expenses as aforesaid, the deficiency shall be paid by the subscriber, and on default thereof the said president and managers, on ten days previous notice, shall recover the same before any justice of the peace or court of record within this state.

3. *And be it enacted,* That every subscriber or holder of a share or shares, shall be entitled to vote by himself, his agent or proxy appointed under his hand and acknowledged before two witnesses, at all elections in virtue of this act, and shall have as many votes as he has shares as far as ten shares, and one vote for every five shares thereafter, but such agent or proxy shall be a member of the company.

4. *And be it enacted,* That so soon as the subscriptions shall be closed, the commissioners before named to take subscriptions, or such of them as shall act, shall certify under their hands the names of the subscribers, and the number of shares subscribed by each person, to the clerk of the court of Washington County, and thereupon the said subscribers, their heirs or assigns, shall be and are hereby created a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "the Harper's Ferry Bridge Company," and by that name, and under that style, the said company shall have succession, and shall be authorised to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, both at law and in equity; also fix upon, make, have, and use a common seal, and the same to change, alter and re-

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