

C H A P. XLIV.

Passed De-
cember 28.

An ACT to appoint commissioners on the road from Middle-town, in Frederick county, to the Washington county line in Turner's Gap, and also on the road from Middle-town, in said county, to the Washington county line in Foxe's Gap.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the act for streightening and amending the several public roads in several counties, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed November session, seventeen hundred and ninety, did authorise and appoint three commissioners to streighten and amend a road leading from Middle-town to the line between Frederick and Washington counties in Turner's Gap: And whereas a supplement to the act entitled as above, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-one, chapter eighty-two, did authorise the same commissioners as were empowered by the act to which it was a supplement, to streighten and amend the road from Middle-town to the Washington county line in Foxe's Gap: And whereas by the removal of two of the commissioners the object of the act, and supplement to it as above, was defeated;

Commission-
ers appointed,
&c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Joseph Swearingen, Frederick Stemple and Leonard Stern, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to effectuate the purposes of the act and supplement referred to as above, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XLV.

Passed De-
cember 28.

An ACT for the better regulation of apprentices.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it has been found by experience, that poor children, orphans and illegitimate children, for want of some efficient system, have been left destitute of support, and have become useless or depraved members of society: And whereas it would greatly conduce to the good of the public in general, and of such children in particular, that necessary instructions in trades and useful arts should be afforded them; therefore,

Justices may
bind out or-
phan chil-
dren, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the justices of the several and respective orphans courts shall and may bind out as an apprentice every orphan child, (the increase or profits of whose estate, whether real or personal, is or are not sufficient for the maintenance, support or education, of the said child,) to some manufacturer, mechanic, mariner, handicraftsman, or other person, at the discretion of the said justices, until such orphan child, if a male, shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years, or if a female, to the age of sixteen years; 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 or mistress of such apprentice, that he or she shall give such orphan child reasonable education in reading and writing, or in reading, writing and arithmetic, to be particularised therein, and also teach such orphan, especially if a male, some useful art or trade, and in all cases supply suitable cloathing and maintenance; and the said justices shall and may also bind out as apprentices, such children as are suffering through the extreme indigence or poverty of their parents, also the children of beggars, and also illegitimate children, and the children of persons out of this state, where a sufficient sustenance is not afforded, in like manner, and on like terms: Provided always, that when any child is about to be bound out, the parent or parents of said child, if living in the county, shall be summoned to appear before the said justices, and the inclination of the said parent or parents, so far as is reasonable, shall be consulted in the choice of the person to whom the said child shall be bound out; and provided always, that when any child shall be before the court for the purpose of being bound out as an apprentice, if any relation or other person will, with good and sufficient security, enter into bond in the penalty of one hundred pounds, for the due and comfortable maintenance, and for the providing sufficient and proper cloathing, for such child, till of age as aforesaid, and also for the reasonable schooling and education of such child, then the court shall not proceed to bind out such child as aforesaid.