

the said freeholders, having first made oath before some justice of the peace, that they will, without favour, affection, prejudice or partiality, assess the damages sustained by the person or persons at whose request such inquisition shall be taken, by reason of opening the aforesaid road through his, her or their land, shall thereupon proceed to assess and value the damages accordingly, of which the said commissioners shall have had at least five days previous notice, and shall return the damages so assessed to the said justice of the peace, and such inquisition and valuation shall be final and conclusive; and the party or parties in whose favour the valuation ascertained by the said commissioners, or the damages assessed by the said freeholders, shall be made, shall be entitled to receive the same from the said commissioners; and the said commissioners shall pay, or secure to be paid, the amount of the said valuation or damages, to the respective parties entitled to the same, out of the monies to be raised and collected from the subscriptions to the said road, within the space of six months after the assessment of such valuation or damages, and before they shall proceed to affect the lands and tenements of the person or persons concerned.

C H A P.
LXXI.

C H A P. LXXII.

An ACT to confirm the title of the select vestry of Saint-John's parish, in Prince-George's county, in and to three acres of ground in said parish.

Passed De-
cember 28.

WHEREAS the select vestry of Saint-John's parish, formerly called King George's parish, in Prince-George's county, by their petition to this general assembly, have prayed an act may pass, enabling them to ascertain the bounds of three acres of ground, lying in said parish, whereon the chapel has been erected, and confirming their title to the same: And whereas an act passed at May session, seventeen hundred and forty-four, empowering the vestry of said parish to purchase three acres of ground, to build a chapel of ease thereon; in pursuance thereof, the said vestry did purchase the said quantity of ground, and erect a chapel of ease thereon; and doubts have arisen respecting the title to, and location of, said three acres of land, an act passed at May session, seventeen hundred and forty-eight, empowering the justices of Prince-George's county to cause the said three acres of ground to be laid out by the county surveyor, and to be securely butted and bounded, and valued by a jury, the return of the jury, under their hands and seals, and the hand and seal of the sheriff, together with the surveyor's certificate of survey, to be entered among the records, and also the surveyor's certificate as aforesaid, to be entered in the parish register book; the said survey, valuation and recording, thus made, to vest an absolute estate in fee in three acres of ground aforesaid in the said vestry, and their successors, for the use of the parish: And whereas the said three acres of ground were accordingly laid out, butted and bounded, but from some neglect or accident the certificate of survey and valuation have never been recorded, and the bounds and courses of the said three acres of ground have become doubtful and uncertain, and it seems reasonable to this general assembly that the title should be confirmed in the said land, which has been so long held by a quiet, peaceable, and uninterrupted possession, and the bounds thereof should be established and secured; therefore,

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the select vestry of Saint-John's parish, in Prince-George's county, for the time being, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to employ, at the expence of said vestry, the surveyor of Prince-George's county, to survey the said three acres of ground, according to the best evidence which can be procured as to the original bounds and location thereof, the said select vestry giving ten days notice of the time of meeting to make said survey to all persons interested in the lands immediately surrounding the said three acres of ground; and the certificate of said survey shall be recorded among the records of Prince-George's county, and when recorded, the said vestry shall be and they are hereby vested with an estate in the said three acres of ground, to them and their successors for ever, in fee-simple, for the use of the said parish; provided, that nothing in this act shall prejudice the

Vestry may
employ the
surveyor, &c.