

and provides for, the appointment of, and compensation to the chief justice, and his associates, shall continue and be in force during the continuance of this act; and all the process, writs and subpoenas, which may be returnable after the end of this present session of assembly to the court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery for Baltimore county, shall be returned to Baltimore county court.

C H A P.
LXV.

VII. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall commence from and after the end of this present session of assembly, and continue and be in force until the thirtieth day of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-eight.

Commence-
ment, &c.

C H A P. LXVI.

An ACT in favour of the president and directors of the Patowmack Company, and the commissioners of the federal buildings.

Passed De-
cember 26.

WHEREAS the president and directors of the Patowmack Company, and the commissioners of the federal buildings, heretofore by their petition to this general assembly, set forth, that the labour of the Patowmack Company is best performed by negro slaves, that it is highly expedient that the labourers should be frequently removed from one side of the river to the other, as the work cannot, with convenience, be effected by distinct sets of labourers for each side of the river, and that a great deal of labour will be necessary in the city of Washington, and the masters of slaves in each state, as well as the public, may reap considerable benefit from the privilege of taking them from either state, and that it is but just that the citizens of both states should share in the advantages, as they have united in liberality towards the said city; and have prayed that a law might be made, permitting negro slaves to be employed by the public on either side of the river Patowmack, either in the works of the Patowmack Company, or of the city of Washington; and it appearing to this general assembly that the prayer of the said petition ought to be granted in part; therefore,

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That it shall be lawful for the said Patowmack Company, and for the said commissioners, to employ any male slaves of the state of Virginia in any part of the public works committed to their respective charge, and not otherwise, on either side of the river Patowmack, and to remove them as often as may be necessary to and from either of the said states, and that the slaves, so employed, shall not acquire any right to freedom in consequence thereof; provided always, that every slave brought from Virginia to Maryland by virtue of this act, shall be carried back to Virginia within twelve calendar months from the final completion of the public works, either of the said city of Washington or of the said river Patowmack, respectively, in which the said slave shall be employed, and that every slave, not carried back as aforesaid, shall be entitled to freedom at the expiration of twelve months as aforesaid.

Company
may employ
male slaves,
&c.

III. *And be it enacted*, That an act passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, entitled, An act in favour of the president and directors of the Patowmack Company, and the commissioners of the federal buildings, shall be and it is hereby repealed.

An act repeal-
ed.

C H A P. LXVII.

An ACT for building a new gaol in the town of Easton, in Talbot county, and to provide for the regulation of the said gaol.

Passed De-
cember 26.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that the public prison of the said county is in a ruinous condition, and incapable of repair, and that the purposes of private and public justice cannot be answered thereby, without the practice of means which are as inconsistent with the principles of humanity as they are with the true notions of civil liberty: And whereas it has been prayed, that an act of assembly may be passed for building a new gaol in the town of Easton, for the said county, by an equal and impartial tax upon the property thereof, upon an assurance that the assessment and collection

Preamble.