

lars, or so much thereof as the said before-mentioned persons, or a majority of them, shall judge to be sufficient for the purpose aforesaid shall be subscribed, three weeks notice at least shall be given in the George-town paper, requiring a meeting of the said subscribers in George-town, and a majority of such meeting, provided two thirds of the said shares be therein represented, are hereby authorized and required to elect, by ballot, three of the said subscribers, to be directors for managing all the concerns of the said company for and during the term of one year next ensuing.

C H A P.
XCII.

II. And be it enacted, That all the said subscribers, and their heirs and assigns, from the time of the said first meeting, shall be, and are hereby declared to be, incorporated, by the name of the Annacostia Bridge Company, and may sue and be sued as such; and the proprietors are hereby required to meet at George-town on the first Monday of January in every year thereafter, and elect three directors to conduct and manage the concerns of the said company for one year; and in the first election, as well as in every election thereafter, each proprietor shall be entitled to one vote for every share he shall subscribe, and any proprietor may, by writing under his hand, attested by one or more witnesses, depute any other proprietor to vote and act as his proxy.

Subscribers
incorporated,
&c.

III. And be it enacted, That the said directors, or any two of them, shall and may require any sum or sums of money from each and every proprietor, in equal proportion, as may from time to time be necessary for completing the said bridge and causeways, and after giving three months public notice in the George-town paper, to sue for and recover, in the name of the said company, such unpaid requisition, with all costs and charges incidental thereto, with legal interest thereon from the time the same became due; and the neglect or refusal to pay any such requisition, after three months notice in the George-town paper, shall have the effect to forfeit all previous payments made on the share or shares so neglected or refused to be paid, to the use and benefit of said company.

Directors
may require
any sum, &c.

IV. Be it enacted, That the said bridge company shall erect a good and sufficient draw to said bridge, not less than twenty feet wide, and shall keep a sufficient number of hands at all times ready for the purpose of raising the said draw, in order to admit vessels to pass through, without delay or interruption, for which no reward shall be demanded or received; and in case of any neglect, the directors for the time being may be indicted and fined in Prince-George's county court as for a common nuisance.

Company to
erect a draw,
&c.

V. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for every proprietor to transfer his or her share or shares, by deed or deeds executed before two or more witnesses, and registered in the books of said company, and not otherwise, except by devise, which said devise shall also be registered before any such share or shares shall pass in virtue thereof.

Shares may be
transferred,
&c.

VI. And be it enacted, That for and in consideration of the great risk incurred by said company, and of the great expence in building said bridge, and making said causeways, and of keeping the same in repair, the said bridge, and all its profits, shall be and the same hereby is vested in the said company, to be held as tenants in common, in proportion to their respective shares, to them, their heirs and assigns, for ever; and it shall and may be lawful for the said directors, at all times hereafter, for the term of fifty years, to receive such reasonable tax or toll as they may from time to time agree on and require, provided they shall not at any time exceed the present rates of ferriage at the ferrics now used over the said Eastern Branch, which rates or tolls shall be made public, and not altered oftener than once in each year; and at the expiration of the term aforesaid of fifty years, the said directors shall receive such toll as shall be regulated by the legislature of this state, or of the United States, should the said bridge be erected within the jurisdiction of the United States.

Bridge vested
in the com-
pany, &c.