

and representatives, is the precedents of the proceedings in parliaments in Great-Britain, as near as the constitution of this province will admit, the governor, upper and lower houses of this present general assembly, do humbly pray that it may be enacted, CHAP. XX.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, *by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of this present General Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That for the future, when and as often as his excellency the governor of this province for the time being shall, upon any accident and urgent affair of this province, think fit to call and convene an assembly, and to send out writs for electing of burgesses and delegates to serve in such assembly, such writs shall issue forth forty days at least before the meeting of such assembly; the form of which writs for election of delegates and representatives, shall be as followeth: "CHARLES, absolute lord and proprietary of the provinces of Maryland and Avalon, lord baron of Baltimore, &c. To the sheriff of _____ county, greeting. These are to command, authorise and empower you, immediately upon receipt hereof, to call together three or more justices of your county, whereof one to be of the quorum, with the clerk of the county court, who are hereby required to sit as a court, and during their sitting, by virtue of your office, to make, or cause to be made, public proclamation, thereby giving notice to all the freemen of your said county, who have within the said county a free-hold of fifty acres of land, or who shall be residents, and have a visible estate of forty pounds sterling at the least, thereby requiring them to appear at your county court-house, at a certain time, not less than ten days after such proclamation made, for electing and choosing deputies and delegates to serve for your said county in a general assembly, to be holden at _____, the _____ day of _____, to which time you shall adjourn your said court; and during the court's sitting, the said freemen so required to appear, or the major part of such of them as shall then appear, shall and may, and are hereby authorised and required, to elect and choose four several and sufficient freemen of your county, each of them having a free-hold of fifty acres of land, or who shall be a resident, and have a visible estate of forty pounds sterling at the least, within your county, whether the parties so elected be present or absent, the said election to be made in such manner and form as the laws of England and this province do direct and provide; and you are to insert the names of the said persons elected, in certain indentures to be then made between you the said sheriff, and the electors; that is to say, two indentures for each delegate, each indenture having thereto your hand and seal, and the hands and seals of the several electors by them subscribed, that the said deputies and delegates for themselves, and the county aforesaid, may have severally full and sufficient power to do and consent to those things, which then and there, by the favour of God, shall happen to be ordained, by the advice and consent of the great council of this province, concerning such occasions and affairs, as shall relate to the government, state and defence thereof; but we will not in anywise that you, or any other sheriff in our said province be elected; and upon such election, you the said sheriff, so soon as conveniently may be, give notice to the parties elected, if absent, and certify and transmit to the governor, or keeper of the great seal of this province for the time being, one of the two several and respective indentures, affixed to these presents, close sealed up, and directed to the governor, or keeper of the great seal of this province for the time being, and the other part of the said indentures you are to keep for your justification. Witness, &c."

Writs of election to issue, &c.

III. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority aforesaid, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid,* That the aforesaid four delegates to be elected in the respective counties within this province, be and are hereby bound and obliged to attend at the time and place of the meeting of such assembly, without any further writ or summons to be to them sent, under the penalty of such fines as shall be by the lower house of assembly imposed on them, unless upon sufficient excuse, to be admitted by the lower house of assembly, their absence be dispensed with, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Delegates may be fined, &c.

IV. PROVIDED ALSO, That no ordinary-keeper within this province, during the time of his ordinary-keeping, or any other person disabled by any laws of England from sitting in parliament, shall be elected, chosen, or serve as a deputy or representative in the said general assembly, so to be hereafter called, convened and appointed, as aforesaid.

Proviso.

V. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority aforesaid,* That any sheriff within this province, who shall not give speedy notice to the inhabitants of his county of the time and place where such election shall be made, as well by proclamation as aforesaid, and by causing the same to be read in all churches, chapels, and other public places within his said county, as also by notes thereof set up at such places, thereby the better to inform the inhabitants of the county, requiring them, under the penalty of one hundred pounds of tobacco, to appear at such time and place appointed for election,

Penalty on sheriffs not giving notice, &c.