

and little or no footsteps left to find out the bounds of the several lots, whereby many disputes and lawsuits are like to arise among the inhabitants and proprietors of the said lots; and forasmuch as justice may the more speedily and at far less charges, be administered upon any such disputes by three or more indifferent persons appointed by law to act as commissioners; to hear and finally determine them, and ascertain the boundaries and proprietorships of the lots within the said city, as near as may be, according to the true intent and meaning of the original surveys of such proprietorships, and of the lots of the town and port of Annapolis, made by Mr. Richard Beard, deceased; it is therefore prayed that it might be enacted,

Commissioners
appointed, &c.

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 Assembly, and the authority of the same, That the honourable colonel William Holland, colonel Thomas Addison, captain Daniel Mariartes, and Mr. Alexander Warfield, or any three of them, be and are hereby appointed, authorised and empowered, commissioners for hearing, and finally determining, all or any the disputes that have and may arise among any the takers up, improvers or purchasers, of all or any the lot or lots of land laid out within the said city, concerning either the property or bounds of any the said lots, and that to that end, the aforesaid commissioners, or the major part of them, together with James Stoddart, Esquire, who is hereby appointed to survey the aforesaid city, and the several lots, streets and public grounds therein, do, sometime before the first day of August, in this present year of our Lord God seventeen hundred and eighteen, meet within the same city, and calling before them, or the major part of them, the respective proprietors and claimers of the lots aforesaid, hear and examine their pretensions thereto, and cause the bounds thereof to be ascertained and staked out, according to the true intent and meaning of the original plot or survey of the town of Annapolis, heretofore made by the aforesaid Mr. Richard Beard, so that no man that has built by mistake be ousted of his possession, and finally to ascertain the properties of the several claims therein, and cause their several determinations to be fairly transcribed, and transmitted in the secretary's office of this province, as the settled and indisputable bounds and properties of all and singular the said lots, and parties claiming the same.

III. AND, to the end that the respective owners of any parcels or quantity of lands lying within the survey or plot of the said city may receive just and equitable satisfaction from the several claimers or possessors of such lots as may happen to fall within the respective bounds they claim property in, BE IT ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That such respective owners or claimers of any quantity or parcel of land lying within the said city, do appear before the said commissioners, at or before the first day of August next, or at any other day or time as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall appoint or direct at the said city, and upon oath by the aforesaid commissioners, or any of them, to be administered to them, declare whether or no they know, or have heard, of any satisfaction or payment for all or any part of the said lands heretofore made, to themselves, or any others, by, from, or under whom they claim the same, and that at the same time the said claimers and owners of such quantities or parcels of land, make good, and shew to the said commissioners their respective rights and claims to the aforesaid lands, and receive such reasonable satisfaction therefore from the respective proprietors of lots within such their lands, as the aforesaid commissioners, or the major part of them, shall direct, and that in default of such claim, and making good their several rights to the aforesaid quantities or parcels of land as aforesaid, they, the said claimers and proprietors, and their heirs and assigns, shall be for ever hereafter precluded and barred from any claim, right or interest thereto, and the aforesaid quantities or parcels of land shall be deemed to be held by the owner of such lots, under the like rents and services as other lots and lands within the city aforesaid now are.

Owners to appear, &c.

IV. AND, whereas for the better encouragement of poor tradesmen to come and inhabit within the said city, and carry on their respective trades therein, the corporation of the said city have supplicated this general assembly, that twenty more small lots should be laid out and added to the said city; BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by and with the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, by this act nominated and appointed, shall cause ten acres, of the public pasture, lying on the north side of the said city, and to the eastward of the ferry road that leads by the hill whereon the powder-house now stands, to be surveyed and staked out into twenty lots, to be taken up by any person or persons that shall build a dwelling-house upon the same according to the directions of the aforesaid act for erecting Anne-Arundel and Oxford towns into ports and towns; which taking up and building upon as aforesaid, upon paying to the proprietors of the said ten acres what sum the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall assess and award to be paid for each lot, shall, by virtue of this act, make and vest a sure and indefeasible estate in fee,

Ten acres to be laid out, &c.