

C H A P. XXIII.

An ACT to prohibit the bringing slaves into this state. Lib. TBH. No. A. fol. 209.

Passed 1st of June, 1783.

Repealed, with its Supplements, (viz. 1791, ch. 57, and 1794, ch. 43,) by 1796, ch. 67, provided that all rights acquired under them shall not be affected or impaired.

C H A P. XXIV.

An ACT appointing wardens for the port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county. Lib. TBH. No. A. fol. 310.

Supplementary and other acts November, 1788, ch. 20, 1791, ch. 60.

WHEREAS it is of importance to the state, that proper persons should be appointed to pre-serve the navigation of the basin and harbour of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county; therefore,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Samuel Smith, Daniel Bowley, John Sterett, Samuel Purviance, Thomas Russell, Richard Ridgely, Robert Henderson, Thomas Elliot and William Patterson, be and are hereby appointed wardens for the said port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, till the first Monday in October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and no longer, unless elected agreeably to the manner hereafter prescribed; and said wardens and their successors are hereby invested with full power and authority to carry into effect the several objects and intentions of this act; and it shall and may be lawful for them, or a majority of them, the chairman herein after directed to be chosen being one, as soon as conveniently may be, having first taken the oath or qualification hereafter prescribed, to meet together, at such times as are herein after mentioned, for the executing and performing the duties hereby enjoined; and said wardens shall have power to appoint and employ a skilful person to be their clerk, who shall keep fair minutes and entries of all their orders, regulations and transactions, and shall, before he enters on the duties of his office, give good and sufficient security, for its faithful discharge, in the sum of one hundred pounds, to be approved of by said wardens; all which said minutes and entries shall be public, and submitted to the inspection of any person or persons who shall desire to peruse them, he or they paying to the clerk the sum of one shilling for each time the books shall be examined; and that the said clerk shall give true copies of any such entries or minutes made in the said books, he or they paying one half penny for each line the said copy shall contain, every line to consist of not less than twelve words; and the said wardens are hereby empowered to have and use one common seal in their affairs, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and to have perpetual succession, as herein directed.

Wardens to be appointed, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the electors for special commissioners shall, on the first Monday of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and the first Monday of October in every fifth year for ever after, ballot for nine wardens, in the same manner as directed for said special commissioners by the act, (a) entitled, An act for the more effectual paving the streets of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, and for other purposes, and shall signify the election of said wardens in the public news-paper; that the aforesaid electors, before they proceed to the election for wardens, shall take an oath or affirmation, to elect, without favour or partiality, such persons for wardens, as they in their judgment and conscience believe best qualified for said office; that the persons elected wardens must have been residents in the said town three whole years preceding the election, and must have real or personal property in said town above the value of one thousand pounds; and that vacancies happening from death, refusal, disqualification or resignation, be filled up by the wardens, in the manner directed in the aforesaid act for filling up vacancies of special commissioners for said town.

To be elected every five years, &c.

(a) November, 1782, ch. 17.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the electors have special care in their choice of wardens, to make such election as that the several parts of the town be as nearly as possible equally represented.

Care to be taken, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said wardens, or a majority of them, shall and hereby have power to choose yearly, and every year, by ballot, one of their own number, to be their chairman; and the said chairman, with a majority of wardens, hereby have authority to do and perform all and every act, matter and thing, herein enjoined and required of them; and in case the said chairman, so chosen, shall neglect or refuse to attend at any of the times appointed for the meeting of the wardens, being at least a majority in number, to choose in the same manner a chairman for the time being.

A chairman to be chosen, &c.

VI. AND