

C H A P.
LVII.

venient houses, habitations and dwellings, for the reception of the poor of said counties, and of such vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and offenders, as shall be committed by virtue of this act, and they shall appropriate one part thereof to be called the alms-house, to and for the reception and lodging of the poor of the said counties respectively; and another part or parts thereof to be called the work-house, to and for the reception and lodging of all such vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and offenders, as shall be committed by virtue of this act; and the aforesaid lands when bought, and the aforesaid houses, habitations and dwellings, when built, shall be, and they are hereby enacted and declared to be, vested in the said trustees, as their estate and inheritance, for the uses and purposes by this act directed and expressed.

And buy beds,
&c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall, and they are hereby authorized, directed and required, after the houses, habitations and dwellings aforesaid, shall be completely erected and finished, to buy and purchase, for the use and employment of the poor of the said county, and the vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and offenders, who shall be committed by virtue of this act, sufficient beds, bedding, working tools, kitchen utensils, cows, horses, and other necessaries; and the said trustees are hereby directed and required to purchase the said quantity of land not exceeding thirty acres, as near and convenient as may be to the court-house in their said counties; and the said trustees are hereby directed and required to keep a fair, distinct, and clear account, in writing, of all the monies by them received and expended by virtue of this act, and to return a true copy thereof, and shew and produce the vouchers to support the same, to the justices of the said counties respectively, at their June courts yearly, to be by the said justices inspected and examined, which said accounts shall be lodged with the clerk of the said courts.

Justices to levy
money, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That after the expiration of the said three years, (a) the justices of the said county courts respectively for the time being shall and they are hereby empowered to assess and levy on all the property in their said counties subject and liable to assessment, at the time of laying their county rate, a sum of current money not exceeding seven shillings and six-pence on every hundred pounds of property as aforesaid, in the said county, together with the collector's commission of four *per cent.* for collecting the same; which said assessment shall be made, levied, collected and paid, in the same manner as herein before directed; which said money, when so collected, shall be paid by the collector to the order of such trustees, or the major part of them, under their common seal, who are hereby authorized and required to receive and apply the same to and for the use, benefit and charge, of maintaining the poor, vagrants, beggars, vagabonds and offenders, in the purchasing provisions and other necessaries for use and labour, in paying a doctor for his salary and for medicines, in providing men and women servants to be under the discretion and management of the overseer of such alms and work-house hereafter directed to be appointed, for and in purchasing materials for the use and employment of all the poor, and all beggars, vagrants, vagabonds and offenders, who shall be able to work, and who shall be committed by virtue of this act.

(a) By 1786, ch. 7, the justices are directed to levy annually the amount mentioned in this section for the subsistence of their poor, in Dorchester till the end of the year 1788, and in Somerset till the end of the year 1789. By May, 1788, ch. 6, the free school property of Dorchester county is vested in the trustees of the poor, which they may (with the consent of the county court,) lease or sell, and apply the money to the support of the poor.

By 1793, ch. 24, any four of the trustees are authorized to place children under three years of age out to nurse.

Trustees to
meet yearly,
&c.

X. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, shall and they are hereby authorized, directed and enjoined, to meet together between the first and tenth day of November yearly, and at all such other times as they shall judge necessary, at the alms and work-house in the said county, during the continuance of this act, to appoint a fit person to be overseer of the alms and work-house in the said county, and other proper officers and servants, as to them shall appear necessary for carrying on the business of the said corporation, and they, or the major part of them, shall and may agree, and they are hereby empowered to pay the said overseer, out of the money raised and collected as aforesaid, a sum not exceeding seventy-five pounds current money *per annum*, as a salary, and so *pro rata* during his continuance in office, and shall then take bond, which the said overseer, and any other overseer to be appointed, shall and is hereby obliged to enter into, with good and sufficient sureties, in the penalty of two hundred pounds current money, payable to the said trustees for the poor, conditioned as follows, to wit: "The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bound A. B. as overseers of the alms and work-house in Dorchester or Somerset counties, (as the case may be,) shall well and truly discharge his duty in the said station, and more particularly according to the directions of the act of assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Dorchester and Somerset counties, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in law."

XI. AND