

C H A P.
XXXI.

found faulty, the same to seize, which weights and measures so seized shall be forfeited, and sold for the use of the said town; the said clerk shall also have power to seize and destroy any meat or other victuals that shall be unwholesome, or unsound and offensive, and offered for sale in the said market; and it shall also be the duty of the clerk of the commissioners, while in office, to take the votes of the inhabitants when the commissioners are elected.

By November, 1792, the clerk is directed to try such provisions before a justice of the peace, who may condemn them; and that act also contains regulations respecting the market-hours, and to prevent forestalling and engrossing.

And rent out
the stalls, &c.

XIV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the commissioners aforesaid, and their successors, or a major part of them, are hereby empowered to rent out the stalls in the market to be erected aforesaid, and to impose such toll on provisions sold in the said market, not exceeding the twentieth part of the value of such provisions, as to them shall seem meet, and shall and may, out of such toll and rents, give their clerk a yearly salary, not exceeding thirty pounds current money; and that the streets, lanes and alleys, of the said town, may be kept clean and in good repair, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, and their successors, or a major part of them, to assess, levy and take, from the inhabitants of the said town, from time to time, such sums of money as may be necessary for that purpose, and with the same hire diligent and industrious labourers, as need may require, to keep the streets, lanes and alleys, in good repair and clear from filth; provided, that such assessment may not be more than once in a year, or may not exceed the sum of two shillings and six-pence current money for every hundred pounds worth of property assessed in the said town.

By 1796, ch. 31, the sum is increased to seven shillings and six-pence for every hundred pounds worth of property.

General mar-
kets to be held,
&c.

XV. AND, for the further encouragement of the inhabitants of the town aforesaid, and others who may be desirous of settling there, BE IT ENACTED, That at the market-house, and on the market square aforesaid, there shall, on the first Tuesdays, and the day after, in the months of April, June, October and December, in one year after the market-house shall be removed as aforesaid, there shall be held general markets for the sale, barter or exchange, of horses, cattle, and other live stock, and also of all goods, wares and merchandises, the produce, growth or manufactory of this, or any of the United States, but not for the sale, barter or exchange, of any goods, wares or merchandise, imported from Europe, or by the subjects of any foreign power; and, that the general markets may not become incitements for the assembling of idle and disorderly persons, the commissioners are hereby empowered to make such rules and regulations as to them may seem most conducive to prevent horse-racing, gambling, and other diversions, and the same regulations to carry into effect; provided, that no penalty for transgressing any such by-law may not exceed ten shillings for any one offence.

By 1793, ch. 42, all fines under this act are to be recovered before a justice of the peace, and applied to the use of the town.

C H A P. XXXII.

Passed 24th of
May, 1787.

An ACT to revive and aid the proceedings of Caroline county court, and to suspend the erecting of the public buildings in Caroline county. Lib. TBH. No. B. fol. 254.

Continued by November, 1787, ch. 38, for three years, &c. Expired.

C H A P. XXXIII.

Passed 22d of
May, 1787.

An ACT to prevent the inconveniencies arising from slaves being permitted to act as free. Lib. TBH. No. B. fol. 256.

Penalty on per-
mitting slaves
to hire them-
selves, &c.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That any person who shall permit and authorize any slave belonging to him or herself in his or her own right, or possessed in the right of another, to go at large or hire him or herself within this state, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except ten days at harvest.

On hiring by
contract with a
slave, &c.

II. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any person who shall hire a slave by contract with such slave, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except as before excepted; provided that any person may permit his slave, being a pilot, to hire himself in such capacity, and any person may employ as a pilot any slave known, or generally reputed to be, a pilot before the passing this act.

How penalties
are to be reco-
vered, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all the penalties aforesaid shall be recovered before a single justice of the peace in the same manner as small debts out of court are recovered, and any sum so recovered shall be to the sole use and benefit of the informer, provided the offence be sufficiently proved without his or her own testimony, otherwise such recovery shall be to the use and benefit of the poor of such county where the offence shall be committed.

IV. AND