

C H A P.
LXVI.

either state, and that it is but just that the citizens of both states should share in the advantages, as they have united in liberality towards the said city; and have prayed that a law might be made, permitting negro slaves to be employed by the public on either side of the river Patowmack, either in the works of the Patowmack company, or of the city of Washington; and it appearing to this general assembly that the prayer of the said petition ought to be granted in part; therefore,

Company may
employ slaves,
&c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That it shall be lawful for the said Patowmack company, and for the said commissioners, to employ any male slaves of the state of Virginia in any part of the public works committed to their respective charge, and not otherwise, on either side of the river Patowmack, and to remove them as often as may be necessary to and from either of the said states, and that the slaves, so employed, shall not acquire any right to freedom in consequence thereof; provided always, that every slave brought from Virginia to Maryland by virtue of this act, shall be carried back to Virginia within twelve calendar months from the final completion of the public works, either of the said city of Washington or of the said river Patowmack, respectively, in which the said slave shall be employed, and that every slave, not carried back as aforesaid, shall be entitled to freedom at the expiration of twelve months as aforesaid.

An act repealed.
Chapter 75.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That an act passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, * entitled, An act in favour of the president and directors of the Patowmack company, and the commissioners of the federal buildings, shall be and it is hereby repealed.

C H A P. LXVII.

Passed 26th of
Dec: 1794.

An ACT for building a new gaol in the town of Easton, in Talbot county, and to provide for the regulation of the said gaol. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 251.

A Supplement 1797, ch. 25.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that the public prison of the said county is in a ruinous condition, and incapable of repair, and that the purposes of private and public justice cannot be answered thereby, without the practice of means which are as inconsistent with the principles of humanity as they are with the true notions of civil liberty: And whereas it has been prayed, that an act of assembly may be passed for building a new gaol in the town of Easton, for the said county, by an equal and impartial tax upon the property thereof, upon an assurance that the assessment and collection of the said tax, by reasonable instalments, will be agreeable to the inhabitants thereof; therefore,

A new gaol to
be erected, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new and commodious gaol be forthwith erected upon the public square in the said town of Easton; or such other place as the commissioners hereafter mentioned shall deem most proper, for the use and benefit of Talbot county, and that Nicholas Hammond, Samuel Sharp, Thomas J. Bullett, Samuel Logan and Joseph Haskins, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, to contract for the building of the said gaol, and to plan and superintend the said building until finished, and to accomplish the several purposes mentioned in this act concerning the same.

By 1797, ch. 25. Owen Kennard and David Kerr are appointed commissioners in the room of Samuel Sharp and Samuel Logan, deceased, and provision is made for supplying future vacancies.

Commissioners
may negotiate
a loan, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to negotiate a loan of one thousand pounds current money, with any person or persons willing to advance the same, and to engage the repayment thereof to such person or persons in the term of five years, by annual instalments of one fifth of the principal sum, together with an interest of six *per cent.* upon the same from the commencement of the said loan until the payment of the first instalment, and with the like rate of interest upon the remaining principal, from time to time, until the whole shall be discharged, and the money so loaned shall be forthwith applied by the said commissioners, or the major part of them, to the building of the said gaol.

By 1797, ch. 25, the commissioners are empowered to sell the old gaol, &c. and apply the money to building the new one.

An annual tax
to be assessed,
&c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That to enable the said commissioners to repay the said loan, an annual tax of two hundred pounds current money, for the term of five years, shall be assessed and levied, by the justices of the levy-court of the said county, on all the property therein liable to assessment, together with such sum as shall be necessary to discharge the interest of the said loan, and a commission