

be collected by the collector of Kent county for the time being from the inhabitants of said county, and others having property therein, in the same manner as other public levies and county assessments are by law collected.

C H A P. XXIX.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That Messieurs Benjamin Chambers, John Wethered and John Nicholson, or any two of them, shall be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, to superintend the making of such repairs, alterations, additions or improvements, to the court-house in Kent county, as may be thought necessary for the purpose of safe keeping and securing the public records of said county, and to contract for materials, and agree with workmen, for the purpose of completing the same.

Commissioners appointed, &c.

By 1797, ch. 104, John Nicholson, Thomas Worrell and James Houston, are appointed commissioners, and they are directed to have an office built and attached to the court-house.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, be and they are hereby authorized to call on the collector of said county to pay the sum so levied, after the time allowed by law to him to collect the same, which said commissioners, or any two of them, are hereby authorized to receive, and give acquittance therefor, and apply the same, or so much thereof as may be necessary, towards the repairs, alterations, additions or improvements, to the said court-house.

Who are to call on the collector, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, shall lay before the justices of the peace of the county aforesaid, at the levy court annually, a fair and distinct account of all monies by them received and expended for the purpose aforesaid, and the surplus, if any, after completing the work as aforesaid, shall be applied towards defraying the county charges; and if the said commissioners, or any two of them, as the case may be, shall refuse or neglect to render such account, or upon such account being had and rendered shall neglect or refuse to pay over the balance in their hands to such person or persons, and to such uses, as the said justices of Kent county shall order and direct, that the said commissioners, or any two of them, as the case may be, or either of them, shall be liable to be sued in the said county court, in the name of the state of Maryland, in an action for money had and received to the use of the state, in which action proof of the receipt of the money by the defendant shall be sufficient to support the said action; and such sum of money recovered in the said action or actions shall and may be received by the justices of the said county, and applied by them in manner herein before directed.

And lay before the justices a fair account, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any of the said commissioners shall die, remove out of the county, or refuse to act, the residue shall immediately thereafter proceed to appoint another to fill up the vacancy.

How vacancies are to be filled.

C H A P. XXX.

An ACT to increase the jurisdiction of the corporation of the city of Annapolis. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 466.

Passed 30th of Dec. 1796.

WHEREAS doubts exist, with respect to the powers of the corporation of the city of Annapolis in passing laws to restrain the mischiefs arising from vagrants, loose and disorderly persons, free negroes, and persons having no visible means of subsistence or support, and the great increase of such persons, to the prejudice of the morals and safety of the city of Annapolis, is apparent,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the mayor, recorder, aldermen and common council, of the city of Annapolis, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to pass, make and ordain, all laws necessary to take up, fine, imprison or punish, any and all vagrants, loose and disorderly persons, free negroes, and persons having no visible means of subsistence or support, that may be found within the limits or jurisdiction of the said city, provided that they shall not in any case pass, make or ordain, any law to fine for any one offence a sum exceeding twenty dollars, or imprisonment exceeding thirty days, or punishment beyond fifteen lashes.

Mayor, &c. to pass laws, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any free negro or mulatto, or other free person, be committed to gaol in virtue of this act, and shall not, at the expiration of the time for which he is committed, pay to the sheriff the amount of his fine and prison fees, it shall and may be lawful for the sheriff, with consent of the mayor in writing, to sell such negro or mulatto, or other free person, as a servant, for any time not exceeding four months, such time to be expressed in writing by the mayor in giving his consent as aforesaid.

Free negroes, &c may be sold, &c.