

C H A P. XV.

An ACT to empower Thomas Johnson, James Johnson, Baker Johnson and Roger Johnson, to remove their slaves into this state from Virginia. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 29. A Private Act. Passed 15th of Jan. 1799.

C H A P. XVI.

An ACT relating to the public roads in Caroline county. Lib. JG.

No. 3. fol. 30.

WHEREAS the present mode of repairing the public roads in Caroline county are found by experience to be expensive, and inadequate to the purpose intended; and it has been found necessary that proper regulations should forthwith be made for keeping the roads of the said county in due repair; therefore,

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the justices of the peace for the county aforesaid, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby authorized and required to meet together on the first Monday of April next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, at the court-house in the said county, and when so met together, the said justices, or a majority of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to describe, ascertain, and distinctly record in a well bound book to be provided by them for that purpose, the several and respective roads and public highways in Caroline county, and to nominate and appoint capable and judicious persons as overseers of the several and respective roads aforesaid, according to the number and divisions of the said roads, as the same shall be ascertained upon their records; provided nevertheless, that the said roads shall be so apportioned, divided and described, as not to require a greater number of overseers than five in any one hundred of the said county; and that the said justices, or a majority of them, may adjourn from day to day until the said roads shall be duly ascertained, and overseers appointed as aforesaid.

Justices to meet, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the clerk of the said county shall attend the justices of the peace, at their said meetings, and shall make fair entries and records of their proceedings in virtue of this act, and shall, within the space of ten days after the appointment of overseers as aforesaid, issue warrants to the said overseers, under his hand, and the seal of his office, notifying the said persons of their appointments respectively, as overseers of the said roads, according to the usual forms, having respect to the alterations required by this act; and the said clerk shall, within the time aforesaid, deliver the said warrants to the sheriff of Caroline county aforesaid, and shall take the receipt of the sheriff for the same; and the said sheriff shall be and he is hereby authorized and required, within the space of twenty days after receiving the said warrants, to deliver the same to the respective persons appointed overseers as aforesaid, and to take their several receipts for the same; and if any of the said overseers shall refuse to receive their respective warrants, the said sheriff shall leave the same at their place of abode, and certify the justices of the levy court thereof; and if the clerk or sheriff of the said county shall neglect or refuse to execute and perform the respective duties herein before required, within the respective periods limited as aforesaid, the said clerk or sheriff, so neglecting or refusing, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars for each and every offence.

Clerk to attend the justices, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That each and every person, so appointed overseer as aforesaid, who shall neglect or refuse to accept of his appointment, after receiving his warrant as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars for every refusal or neglect; provided nevertheless, that no member of the legislature, nor magistrate, nor preacher, nor teacher, nor practising attorney, nor physician, nor commissioner of the tax, shall be liable to serve as overseers of the said roads, without his or their consent; and provided also, that no person shall be compellable to act as overseer of any road more than one year in every three years, without his consent.

Penalty on overseers for refusing to serve, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall be the duty of the said overseers to keep all the public roads in the said county well and sufficiently cleared and grubbed, fit for travelling, twenty feet wide at the least, and to make and keep good and substantial bridges over all the heads of rivers, creeks, branches and swamps, where the same shall be necessary, for the convenient and easy passage of travellers, with their waggons, carts, carriages, horses and cattle, and to remove all nuisances which may obstruct or annoy their passage, and well and sufficiently to causeway all and singular such places in and upon the said roads as shall require the same, at the discretion and by the direction of the said justices; and for this purpose the said justices, or some one or more of them, in their respective neighbourhoods, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required, from time to time,

Overseers to keep the roads cleared, &c.