

1774.

3 HENRY HARFORD, Esq;

C H A P. XVI.

Trustees in-  
vested with  
Power & Au-  
thority as a  
Body politic,  
&c.

for the County, to the Person first named, or in his Absence to any one of the Three Persons first named that shall be there present; the which Person being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the Oaths aforementioned to all the Rest, and so successively, the Person first named that shall be present shall always administer the said Oaths to any that have been absent, or that shall hereafter be elected and chosen, pursuant to the Directions of this Act, to supply the Place of any that shall be dead or removed out of the County, or of any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act as a Trustee, when elected and chosen, pursuant to the Directions of this Act: And the aforesaid Persons, or the major Part of them being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as Trustees for the Poor of their said County, and as such are hereby invested with full Power and Authority as a Body politic, to plead and be impleaded, to sue and be sued, to defend and be defended, to answer and be answered, by the Name of the Trustees for the Poor for *Talbot* County, in all and every Cause, Complaint, and Action, real, personal; or mixt, of whatever Kind or Nature it shall be, in any of the Courts of Judicature within this Province, and by that Name, they and any of them and their Successors shall, and they are hereby enabled to take, hold, possess, and enjoy, any Gift, Donation, or Present, which shall or may hereafter be given, devised; or bequeathed, by any Person or Persons whatsoever, to them, or any of them, for or towards the Support and Maintainance of the Poor in the said County, and they or any of them may receive, by way of Subscription; any Sum or Sums of Money which shall or may be given for the better and more speedy promoting the Benefit and Good by this Act intended; and that they have full Power, Authority; lawful Capacity; and Ability; to purchase, take, hold, receive; enjoy, and have; to them and their Successors, for ever, any Lands, Tenements; and Hereditaments; not exceeding the yearly Value of One Thousand Pounds Sterling; and are hereby empowered and authorized to use one common Seal in their Business relating to the said Corporation, and the same if necessary to change and alter, and that the said Persons, so incorporated, or the longest Livers and Successors of them, shall be the true and undoubted Trustees in perpetual Succession for ever, to be continued in Way and Manner hereafter specified, with full and absolute Power, Liberty, and Authority, in the making and ordaining such Laws, Orders, and Rules; for the better relieving, regulating, and setting the Poor to work, and punishing Vagrants, Beggars, Vagabonds, and other Offenders, and for the good Government of the said Alms and Work-House in their said County, as to them and their Successors shall, from Time to Time seem most fit and requisite; all which shall be observed by the Overseer of such Alms and Work-House, and by all Poor, Beggars, Vagrants, Vagabonds, and other Offenders, in such Alms and Work-House, under the Penalties therein contained.

Proviso

V. **Provided** always, That the said Rules, Laws, and Orders, be not wise contrary to the Laws of this Province.

In Case of  
Death or Re-  
fusal to act,  
remaining  
Trustees to  
choose others  
in their  
Room.

VI. **And**, to perpetuate the Succession of the aforementioned Number of Five Trustees for the Poor in the said County, *Be it enacted*, That as often as any one of the said Trustees for the Poor shall die, remove himself out of the County, refuse to qualify himself by taking the Oaths aforesaid, or become incapable of acting, the Trustees for the Time being, then surviving and remaining within the said County, or the major Part of them, are hereby authorized and required to elect, nominate, and choose, one of the principal and better Sort of the Inhabitants of the County, in the Place and Room of such Trustee, and so to fill up the full