

C H A P.
VIII.

and the different branches of the mathematics, are taught in the same, under a sufficient number of able and approved masters; that many of the students are preparing and desirous to enter upon a course of philosophy, and must repair to some other state, at a very grievous and inconvenient expence, to finish their education, unless they, the said visitors, are enabled to enlarge the plan of the said school, by engraving thereon a system of liberal education in the arts and sciences, and providing necessary books and apparatus, with an additional number of masters and professors; and the said visitors have further expressed their assurance, that if they were made capable in law of erecting the said school into a college or general seminary of learning for the eastern shore, or peninsula between the bays of Chesapeake and Delaware (maintaining the original design of the said school as a foundation not to be violated) very considerable sums could be raised in a few years, within the said peninsula, by free and voluntary contributions, for the establishment and support of such seminary, and have accordingly prayed, that a law may be passed to enable them, the said visitors, to enlarge and improve the said school into a college, or place of universal learning, with the usual privileges: Now this general assembly, taking the said petition into their serious consideration, and being desirous to encourage and promote knowledge within this state, have agreed to enact,

Visitors to erect the school into a college, &c.

II. And be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the said Joseph Nicholson, James Anderson, John Scot, William Boardly, Peregrine Lethbury, William Smith, and Benjamin Chambers, the present visitors of Kent county school, and their successors, shall have full power and authority to erect the said school into a college or seminary of universal learning, and to increase the number of visitors and governors thereof to twenty-four, in manner following, that is to say: First, The said visitors of Kent county school, and their successors, for and during the term of five years next after the passing of this act, are hereby empowered and made capable to receive contributions and subscriptions, for the said intended college or seminary of universal learning, of any person or persons who may be willing to promote so good a design; and, in case any number or denomination of contributors in any county of the eastern shore of this state, or of the peninsula aforesaid in the neighbouring states, shall subscribe and engage to pay towards the founding and supporting the said intended college, any sum not less than five hundred pounds current money, payable in Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof, as the same may be, at the time of payment, in good merchantable wheat or tobacco, the said visitors and their successors may covenant and agree with such subscribers and contributors, that there shall be one visitor and governor of the said college chosen for ever out of such county, for every five hundred pounds of specie so subscribed and paid, or secured to be paid, towards founding and supporting the said college, and that the first election of every such county visitor and governor of the said college shall be made by the subscribers and contributors in the county, within three months after the sum of five hundred pounds, or the value thereof, shall be subscribed and paid, or secured to be paid, as aforesaid; and due notice of the time and place of election shall be given to the subscribers and contributors in every county, in such form and manner as shall be agreed upon by the visitors of Kent county school, and set forth in the preamble of the subscription papers, which the said visitors shall send into