

C H A P.
XXIII.
XXV.

When canal is
to be begun,
&c.

XV. Be it enacted, That the persons incorporated by this act shall begin the canal at or near Love-Island, on or before the first day of October next, and carry on the same with diligence till it reaches tide water, and fully complete the canal, according to the directions of this act, within seven years, and on failure or neglect to perform the same within the time aforesaid, this act to be null, void, and of no effect.

Owners of
land may be-
come subscri-
bers, &c.

XVI. Be it enacted, That the owners of lands through which the canal may pass, shall have full liberty to become subscribers for making the said canal, at any time before the first day of June next, provided such application be made before the subscriptions be filled up and completed.

C H A P. XXIV.

An ACT respecting theatrical entertainments.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is the duty of government to prevent, as far as may be, the exhibition of indecent or immoral theatrical entertainments,

Theatrical en-
tertainments
not to be ex-
hibited with-
out licence,
&c.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That no theatrical entertainments shall hereafter be exhibited, unless by licence from the governor, and every person who shall perform as an actor or actress in such entertainment, without such licence, shall forfeit and pay, for every offence, the sum of fifty pounds. Provided, that nothing in this act is meant to extend to deprive the street or special commissioners of Baltimore town, in Baltimore county, from recovering or levying the tax on the play-house in said town, the manager, actor, or actors therein, conforming to this act, nor from licensing all other public exhibitions within said town, agreeably to an act, entitled, An act for the more effectual paving the streets of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county.

New plays,
&c not to be
acted, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That from and after the tenth day of January next, no person shall, for hire, gain or reward, act, perform, represent, or cause to be acted, performed or represented, any new interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, play, farce, or other entertainment of the stage, or any part or parts therein, or any new act, scene or other part, added to any old interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, play, farce, or other entertainment of the stage, or any new prologue or epilogue, unless a true copy thereof be sent to the governor ten days at least before the acting, representing, or performing thereof, together with an account of the play-house, or other place, where the same shall be, and the time when the same is to be first acted, represented or performed, signed by the master or manager.

Governor may
prohibit act-
ing, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That from and after the tenth day of January next, it shall and may be lawful to and for the governor, from time to time, and when and as often as he shall think fit, to prohibit the acting, performing or representing, any interlude, tragedy, comedy, opera, play, farce, or other entertainment of the stage, or any act, scene, or part thereof, or any prologue or epilogue; and in case any person or persons shall act, perform or represent, or cause to be acted, any old