

An ACT for founding a college on the western shore of this state, and constituting the same, together with Washington college on the eastern shore, into one university, by the name of The University of Maryland.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, institutions for the liberal education of youth in the principles of virtue, knowledge, and useful literature, are of the highest benefit to society, in order to train up and perpetuate a succession of able and honest men for discharging the various offices and duties of life both civil and religious, with usefulness and reputation, and such institutions of learning have accordingly been promoted and encouraged by the wisest and best regulated states: And whereas it appears to this general assembly, that many public spirited individuals, from an earnest desire to promote the founding a college or seminary of learning on the western shore of this state, have subscribed and procured subscriptions to a considerable amount, and there is reason to believe that very large additions will be obtained to the same throughout the different counties of the said shore, if they were made capable in law to receive and apply the same towards founding and carrying on a college or general seminary of learning, with such salutary plan, and with such legislative assistance and direction as the general assembly might think fit; and this general assembly, highly approving those generous exertions of individuals, are desirous to embrace the present favourable occasion of peace and prosperity, for making lasting provision for the encouragement and advancement of all useful knowledge and literature through every part of this state;

College to be established, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a college or general seminary of learning, by the name of Saint John's, be established on the said western shore, upon the following fundamental and inviolable principles, namely; first, the said college shall be founded and maintained for ever, upon a most liberal plan, for the benefit of youth of every religious denomination, who shall be freely admitted to equal privileges and advantages of education, and to all the literary honours of the college, according to their merit, without requiring or enforcing any religious or civil test, or urging their attendance upon any particular religious worship or service, other than what they have been educated in, or have the consent and approbation of their parents or guardians to attend; nor shall any preference be given in the choice of a principal, vice-principal, or other professor, master or tutor, in the said college, on account of his particular religious profession, having regard solely to his moral character and literary abilities, and other necessary qualifications to fill the place for which he shall be chosen. Secondly, there shall be a subscription carried on in the different counties of the western shore, upon the plan on which it hath been opened, for founding the said college; and the several subscribers shall class themselves, according to their respective inclinations, and for every thousand pounds current money which may be subscribed and paid, or secured to be paid, into the hands of the treasurer of the western shore, by any particular class of subscribers, they shall be entitled to the choice of one person as a visitor and governor of said college. Thirdly, when any of the first visitors and governors chosen by the subscribers as aforesaid, shall die, or remove out of the state, or absent himself from four succeeding quarterly meetings, without such excuse or plea of necessary absence as shall be deemed reasonable by a legal and just quorum of the said visitors and governors, duly assembled at a quarterly visitation of the said college, such quorum, so assembled, shall proceed, by a new election, to fill up the place and seat of such deceased, removed, or absenting member.

III. And