

1787.

L A W S of M A R Y L A N D.

C H A P. IV.

Passed May 15.

An ACT for the more effectual remedy to extinguish fire in Baltimore-town.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the calamity of fire breaking out in so populous a town as Baltimore is greatly to be dreaded, and every preparation ought to be made by the inhabitants to prevent its spreading whenever it doth break out;

Householders to keep buckets, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That every householder within the said town, whose real property therein is assessed to one hundred pounds or upwards current money, shall be obliged to keep him or herself provided with two good and sufficient leather buckets marked with the owner's names, and hung up near the front door of their dwelling house, which buckets shall be used for no other purpose but handing water at fires; and every such householder now residing within the said town, shall be allowed six months from the end of this present session of assembly, to procure the said buckets, and every such person, who shall hereafter come to reside in the said town, shall be allowed three months from the time of their residence and assessment as aforesaid to procure their said buckets.

Penalty on neglect, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That any person of the above description, who shall neglect to provide themselves with two buckets as aforesaid, after the times allowed by this act to procure them, shall forfeit and pay seven shillings and sixpence current money per month for every month he or they shall so neglect to provide themselves with the said buckets, to be recovered before any justice of the peace.

Buckets lost to be replaced, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That if any of the said buckets be lost or broke at fires, that the special commissioners of said town shall, out of the fines and forfeitures incurred under this act, replace the said buckets so lost or broke at fires.

Wells to be sunk, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That the special commissioners of said town shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to sink, or cause to be sunk, wells, and to erect pumps, in such parts and places on the sides of the streets in said town that are at present remote and at a distance from water, for the ease and convenience of the inhabitants of said town, and the expences thereof to be raised and paid by the assessable property on the square that wants such wells or pumps, to be levied, collected and applied, by the commissioners aforesaid, for the purpose aforesaid; provided always, that the commissioners aforesaid shall, in no case, proceed to sinking the wells, or erecting the pumps, on any square, unless the majority of the persons owning property on such square petition the said commissioners for doing the same.

How fines are to be paid, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That all fines and penalties incurred in virtue of this act shall be paid to the special commissioners, to be by them applied to the sinking wells and erecting pumps in said town.

Tenants may deduct for buckets, &c.

VII. And be it enacted, That every tenant under lease from year to year furnishing and supplying leather buckets under and in virtue of this act, shall be allowed to deduct out of the rent arising due to the landlord, the expence of procuring the said buckets, and the same shall be considered as the property of the landlord, and not removable by the tenant on his leaving the premises leased.

C H A P. V.

Passed May 15.

An ACT to enable John De Butts to devise lands to his relations on the condition therein mentioned.

Preamble

WHEREAS John De Butts, of Saint Mary's county, by his petition to this general assembly, hath set forth, that not having any lawful issue, he is desirous of devising part of his estate to his brother, doc-