

breaking a store-house, warehouse, or other out-house, in the day or night, with intent to commit a felony therein, or stealing slaves or vessels, to work and labour for any time in their discretion, not exceeding seven years for the same crime or offence, on the public roads of the said county, or in making, repairing or cleaning, the streets or basin of Baltimore-town; and the said justices may procure a proper place or places for the confinement of such criminals, and may appoint and employ a fit and proper person or persons to take care of such criminals, and to keep (and secure them in irons, if necessary) to constant and hard labour, according to their ability and strength of body, age and sex; and the said justices may compel any of the said criminals to wear such badge or mark of distinction as they shall direct; and any one of the said justices shall have full power to order any of the said criminals to be confined and whipped for any misconduct, or refusal or neglect to labour, and to be fed with bread and water; and if any of the said criminals shall run away, the time of service and labour of such criminal shall be extended by the said court, not exceeding one year for every time such criminal shall run away; and if any criminal shall actually labour and serve the full time appointed, such labour and service shall have the effect of a pardon, to all intents and purposes, for the crimes for which such criminal was committed.

X. And be it enacted, That any one of the said justices shall have full power and authority to order any person within Baltimore-town, or its precincts, whom he shall suspect of being a vagrant, vagabond, or disorderly person, or a common prostitute, to appear before any two or more of the said justices; and such order shall be directed to, and served by, any constable of the said county; and if on the appearance of such person, and examination by testimony, any two or more of the said justices shall determine such person to come within any of the said descriptions, the said justices may adjudge such person to work and labour as a criminal for any time not exceeding one year, unless good security be given to such justices, to their satisfaction, for the future good behaviour of such person so taken up as aforesaid.

Justices may order persons to be apprehended, &c.

XI. And, to ascertain what persons shall be deemed vagrants, vagabonds, and disorderly persons, within the intention of this act, Be it enacted, That every person who has no visible means of maintenance from property or personal labour, and lives idle, without employment, and every person who wanders about, and begs in the streets, or from door to door, and every person who wanders abroad, and lodges in out-houses, barns, market-places, or the open air, and cannot give a good account of his or her living, and every woman who is generally reputed a common prostitute, and every juggler, fortuneteller, or common gambler, shall be adjudged a vagrant, vagabond, or disorderly person, within the meaning of this act.

What persons are deemed vagabonds, &c.

XII. And be it enacted, That the said justices be authorized to appoint any number of constables they may think proper, and to displace them and appoint others in their room, for the execution of this act, and the said justices may allow such constables such salary or other reward as the said justices may think reasonable.

Justices may appoint constables, &c.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the expence attending the execution of this act shall be paid by Baltimore county, and shall be assessed by the said justices, and collected with the county assessment.

Expence to be paid by Baltimore county, &c.

XIV. And be it enacted, That the general court, or any county court, may pass such judgment against any criminal convict before them as the law requires, or they may, in their discretion, adjudge any person convicted before them for any of the crimes and offences herein before enumerated, to work and labour for any time in their discretion, not exceeding seven years for the same crime or offence, on the public roads in Baltimore county, or in making, repairing or cleaning, the streets or basin of the said town, and may order such criminal to be conveyed, if convict in the general court, at the expence of the state,

General court, &c. may pass judgment, &c.