

1788.

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

C H A P. XIII. shall be returned and returnable to the days and times above specified, any thing in any former law to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XIV.

An ACT for the relief of the poor of Caroline county.

Passed December 22.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it appears to this general assembly, that the inhabitants of Caroline county are burthened with taxes for the support of the poor in said county, whose numbers annually increase; and notwithstanding the large sums granted to that use, they are not comfortably supported under the present regulations; therefore,

Alms and work-house to be erected, &c.

II. **Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,** That there shall be an alms and work-house erected and built in Caroline county, at a convenient place therein, at the general charge and expence of the said county; and that the justices of the said county for the time being, shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered to assess and levy, in equal proportion, on the property within the said county liable to assessment, at the time of laying the county rate, the sum of three hundred pounds current money, in each of the years seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, seventeen hundred and ninety, and seventeen hundred and ninety-one, together with the collector's commission of six *per centum* thereon for collecting the same; which said rate and assessment, so as aforesaid to be laid and levied, shall be collected by the collector of the said county in the same manner and at the same time as the county rate is collected; and the said money, when so as aforesaid collected, shall be paid by the said collector to such trustees for the poor, or the major part of them, as are by this act appointed, who are hereby authorized and required to receive and apply the same to the uses and purposes herein after directed.

Trustees appointed, &c.

III. **And be it enacted,** That for the time being the several persons hereafter named be and are hereby appointed trustees of the poor within the said county, and are empowered with full and sufficient authority to discharge the several offices, duties and trusts, reposed and required of them by this act; that is to say, Messieurs William Wheatly, Joseph Douglass, Thomas Hardcastle, Joshua Willace and Henry Downs; which persons, or the major part of them, in case of the death or absence of any, are hereby required, with all convenient speed, to meet at such place within their county as to them shall seem meet, to qualify themselves for the office of trustees for the poor of their county, which they are to do by taking and subscribing the several oaths, or affirmations, appointed by law to be taken to the government, and also taking the following oath, viz. "I, A. B. do swear, or affirm, that I will duly and faithfully discharge the duties and trust committed to me as a trustee for the poor of Caroline county, by an act of the general assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor of Caroline county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge. So help me God:" Which oaths are to be administered by any of the five persons last named for the county to the person first named, or in his absence to any one of the three persons first named that shall be there present, which person, being sworn as aforesaid, shall administer the oaths aforementioned to all the rest, and so successively, the person first named that shall be present shall always administer the said oaths to any that have been absent, or that shall hereafter be elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act, to supply the place of any that shall be dead, or removed out of the county, or any who shall refuse or neglect to qualify and act as a trustee, when elected and chosen pursuant to the directions of this act; and the aforesaid persons, or the majority of them, being sworn as aforesaid, shall be constituted and qualified as trustees for the poor of their said county, and as such are hereby invested with full power and authority, as a body politic, to plead and to be impleaded, to sue and to be sued, to defend and to be defended, to answer and be answered, by the name of the trustees for the poor of Caroline county, in all and every cause, complaint and action, real, personal or mixed, of whatever kind or nature it shall be, in any court of judicature within this state, and by that name they and any of them, and their successors, shall and they are hereby enabled