

C H A P.
XV.

justices of the said county for the time being shall, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to assess and levy, in equal proportions 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 the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, 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 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 ap-
pointed, &c.

IV. 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 Richard Tilghman, Vachel Downs, Richard Bennett Carmichael, George Jackson, Francis Hall, Aquila Brown, George Finley, Edward Wright and Philip Fiddeman; the 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 Queen-Anne's county, by an act of the general assembly, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Queen-Anne's county, according to the best of my skill and knowledge. So help me God:”

the 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; the 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 of 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 to be answered, by the name of the trustees for the poor of Queen-Anne's 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 to take, hold, possess and enjoy, any gift, donation or present, which shall or may hereafter be given, devised or bequeathed, by any person or persons whatsoever, to them or any of them, for or towards the support and maintenance of the poor in the said county; and they or any of them may receive, by way of subscription, any sum or sums of money which shall or may be given for the better and more speedy promoting the benefit and good by this act intended; and that they have full power, authority and ability, to purchase, take, hold, receive, enjoy and have, to them and their successors for ever, any lands, tenements and hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of five hundred pounds current money, and are hereby empowered and authorized to use one common seal in their business relating to the said corporation, and the same, if necessary, to change and alter; and that the said persons so incorporated, and their successors, shall be the true and undoubted trustees, in perpetual succession for ever, to be continued in the way and manner hereafter specified, with full and absolute power, liberty and authority, in the making and ordaining such laws, orders and rules, for the bet-