

C H A P.
XXV.Pleas, &c. ad-
judged good,
&c.

III. And, whereas from the multiplicity of business depending in the said court, the justices thereof have not been able to hear and determine all the causes depending therein within the time limited by law, Be it enacted, That all pleas, process and proceedings, had, made and done, in the said court, by the justices thereof, in causes which have been continued longer than the time limited by law, shall be adjudged and taken to be good and valid, to all intents and purposes, as if the same had been had, made and done, within the time limited by law; and that the justices of the same court may, at the next county court to be held for the said county, proceed to hear and determine, or further continue, and thereafter hear and determine, the said causes so depending respectively, as fully and effectually as they might heretofore have done as by law required, the said continuance or continuances, or any other matter or thing, to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XXVI.

Passed De-
cember 22.

An ACT to enable William Hammond, of Baltimore county, to erect a floating bridge across Patapsco River, at a place called Hammond's Ferry.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by William Hammond, of Baltimore county, that he is possessed of a ferry on Patapsco River, which hath been used and enjoyed for many years past by his predecessors, and that if proper encouragement was given, a floating bridge might be erected over the said river, which would greatly facilitate the intercourse to and from the town of Baltimore to many parts of the state: And whereas the said William Hammond hath proposed to erect the said bridge, of a sufficient width for carriages to pass and repass at all times and seasons of the year, at his own expence, provided a law was passed enabling him to demand a certain toll from all persons passing and repassing the same; and this general assembly, being desirous of encouraging such laudable undertakings, have agreed to enact,

W. Ham-
mond to build
a bridge, &c.

II. And be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the said William Hammond shall have full power and authority to build, erect and lay, at the place commonly called Hammond's Ferry, on Patapsco River, a floating bridge across the said river Patapsco; which said bridge, when erected, built and fixed, shall be of sufficient width and strength for all carriages to pass and repass over the same; and it shall and may be lawful for the said William Hammond, and all and every person or persons claiming under him, to ask, demand and receive, for the term of twenty years hereafter, as toll, or a compensation for the safe transportation over the said ferry, according to the rates following, to wit, every four-wheel riding carriage, including horses and driver, one shilling and six-pence; every two-wheel carriage, including horses and driver, one shilling; every waggon, and other four-wheel carriages, horses and driver, one shilling and four-pence; every man and horse, four-pence; every foot person, on single horse, two-pence; horned and other cattle per head, one penny: Which tolls are hereby rated in current money, and may be discharged in Spanish milled dollars, at the rate of seven shillings and six-pence each; provided always, and it is the true intent and meaning of this act, that the said William Hammond, and all persons claiming under him, shall not be permitted, in virtue of any power vested in him or them by this act, to obstruct, or in any manner impede, the passing and repassing of any vessels of any size, description or name, up and down the said river Patapsco, but that the said William Hammond, and all those claiming under him, shall be obliged to have a free passage kept open, either by a draw-bridge or otherwise, for all vessels of every size or description to pass and repass through the said floating bridge; and provided also, that the said William Hammond shall enter into bond, with security, to be approved of by Baltimore county court, to finish the said bridge within the term of three years, and keep the same in repair during the term of twenty years aforesaid, and to comply with the terms and conditions enjoined on him by this act.

Road deemed
public, &c.

III. And be it further enacted, That the road leading from Hammond's ferry to the Baltimore iron-works, in Baltimore county, shall be deemed and taken, at