

Passed De-  
cember 14.

An ACT for the removal of the seat of justice from Melville's Warehouse to Pig Point, in Caroline county.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS it appears to this general assembly, that the removal of the seat of justice, in Caroline county, from Melville's Warehouse to Pig Point, will be for the convenience and advantage of the inhabitants of said county,

Commission-  
ers appointed,  
&c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Messieurs William Richardson, Zebdiel Potter, Joseph Richardson, Peter Edmondson, and Joshua Willis, be and are hereby appointed commissioners for Caroline county aforesaid, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby authorized, empowered and required, to execute and perform the several trusts and powers reposed in, and required of them by this act; and that in case any of the said commissioners should die, refuse to act, or remove out of the said county, the others, or the major part of them, shall elect another person or persons in the room of him or them so dying, refusing to act, or removing out of the said county.

Who are to a-  
gree for the  
purchase of  
land, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioners, or a major part of them, shall have full power and authority, at any time before the first day of June next, to agree with the owner or owners of the land at Pig Point aforesaid, for the purchase of a quantity of land, not exceeding four acres, most convenient and proper for a court-house and gaol to be erected on, and if such land can be purchased at a reasonable price, a deed shall be taken for the same from the owner or owners to the justices of Caroline county, and their successors, for ever; and if the commissioners cannot agree about the purchase of the land aforesaid with the owner or owners thereof, by the day aforesaid, or the said owner or owners should be under any disability to convey the same, then the said commissioners, or a major part of them, shall, as soon as may be thereafter, cause to be surveyed, laid out and plotted, four acres of land at the place aforesaid, the most convenient for the purposes aforesaid; and the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall, by warrant under their hands, direct the sheriff of said county to summon, and cause to come to the place aforesaid, on a certain day in such warrant to be mentioned, eighteen good and sufficient men of the county aforesaid, qualified to serve as jurymen in the county court, none of whom to be interested in the said land, or related to the owner or owners thereof; and thereupon the sheriff of the said county shall summon such eighteen good and sufficient men aforesaid, to be and appear at the day and place in the said warrant mentioned, under a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds current money; and every person, so summoned, shall attend agreeably to the summons, unless prevented by sickness, or other unavoidable accident, under the penalty of five pounds current money; and the persons so summoned shall, at the place aforesaid, on the day mentioned in the warrant aforesaid, or on any other day to be appointed by the said commissioners, be ballotted for by the said commissioners, or a majority of them, and the twelve first drawn shall be a jury to value the land so laid out by the commissioners, and each of them shall take an oath, to be administered by any one of the said commissioners, well and truly to value the said land to be laid out by the commissioners, according to its actual worth, without favour or partiality; and the said jury, having taken the oath aforesaid, shall value the said land so to be laid out by the commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, and shall enter their valuation in writing, and subscribe their names to the same, and the valuation of the said jury, or a majority of them, shall be binding on all parties; and upon payment, or tender of payment, of the sum of money, to which the jury aforesaid shall value the said land, to the owner or owners thereof, such land shall be vested in the justices of said county, and their successors, for ever, for the purposes aforesaid; and if, by any accident, the land aforesaid shall not be valued under the warrant issued for the purpose aforesaid, the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall issue another warrant for the purposes aforesaid, upon which there shall be similar proceedings as above directed, and so *toties quoties* until the said land is properly valued as aforesaid; and the money agreed to be paid for the said land by the commis-  
sioners,