

C H A P. LXXVII.

Agree with and appoint collectors, &c.

XXI. And, whereas in some counties no collectors of the said fund tax have been appointed, and in others those who have been appointed have declined to act, **Be it enacted**, That it shall be lawful for the said agent to agree with and appoint a collector of the said tax in any county where there shall be no collector appointed, who shall give security for the performance of his duty agreeably to law; and the collectors, so appointed by the said agent, shall give security, to be approved of by the said agent, for the performance of their duty respectively, and shall proceed to act in the same manner, and be liable to the same duties in all respects, as if they had been appointed by the commissioners.

Render a fair account, &c.

XXII. **And be it enacted**, That the said agent shall render a fair and full account of his several proceedings, under the authority of this act, to the general assembly at their next session, and shall be allowed for his services the following commissions, to wit: For all payments made to either of the treasurers on bonds for confiscated property, one and a half *per cent.* for all bonds with security taken by the said agent on resales of confiscated property in virtue of this act, two and a half *per cent.* for all monies collected on open accounts, three *per cent.* and for all other monies or bonds paid in or taken in virtue of this act, two *per cent.*

And give bond, &c.

XXIII. **And be it enacted**, That the said agent, before he enters upon the execution of the duties of this act, shall give bond to the state, before the governor and the council, in the penalty of twenty thousand pounds current money, with such securities as the governor and the council shall approve, for the faithful performance of the said duties, which bond shall be lodged with the treasurer of the western shore; and shall also take an oath, before the chancellor, that he will well and faithfully discharge the duties of agent, under the act, entitled, An act to appoint an agent for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, and for other purposes, to the best of his skill and judgment; the certificate of which oath shall be annexed to, or endorsed on, the said bond.

How a vacancy is to be filled.

XXIV. **And be it enacted**, That if the said agent shall not accept his appointment, or if, after acceptance, he shall not give bond and take the oath aforesaid before the first day of February next, or shall die, the governor and the council are hereby authorized and requested to appoint a fit and proper person in his place, who shall have and execute all the authorities and powers vested in the said Randolph Brandt Latimer by this act, such person first giving security and taking the oath aforesaid.

C H A P. LXXVIII.

An ACT respecting the equity jurisdiction of the county courts.

**Be it enacted**, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That in all cases where the matter or thing in dispute shall not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds current money, or ten thousand pounds of tobacco, the justices of the county court where the defendant resides, may and shall have and exercise, and they are hereby invested with, an original equity jurisdiction, as fully and amply as the chancellor may or doth possess and exercise in any case within the jurisdiction of the chancery court, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

And determine before or after judgment, &c.

II. **And be it enacted**, That in all actions in the county court, where the matter or thing in dispute shall not exceed the sum of one hundred pounds current money, or ten thousand pounds of tobacco, the justices of the county court where such action shall be brought, may and shall, at the prayer of either plaintiff or defendant, either before or after judgment or verdict of a jury at common law, hear and determine the same according to the rules of equity and good conscience, as fully and amply as the chancellor might do in any case within the jurisdiction of the chancery court.

Provide.

III. **Provided**, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, so as to limit, abridge or restrain, the jurisdiction of the chancery court of this state in any manner or respect whatsoever, but that the said court shall

*Continued by Act 1798 ch 71. to 30 Oct. 1805.*

Passed December 30.

Court to have original equity jurisdiction in certain cases, &c.