

C H A P. LXVII. lection of the said tax, by reasonable instalments, will be agreeable to the inhabitants thereof; therefore,

A new gaol to be erected, &c.

II. **Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,** That a new and commodious gaol be forthwith erected upon the public square in the said town of Easton, or such other place as the commissioners hereafter mentioned shall deem most proper, for the use and benefit of Talbot county, and that Nicholas Hammond, Samuel Sharp, Thomas J. Bullett, Samuel Logan and Joseph Haskins, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners, to contract for the building of the said gaol, and to plan and superintend the said building until finished, and to accomplish the several purposes mentioned in this act concerning the same.

Commissioners may negotiate a loan, &c.

III. **And be it enacted,** That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, be and they are hereby authorised and empowered to negotiate a loan of one thousand pounds current money, with any person or persons willing to advance the same, and to engage the repayment thereof to such person or persons in the term of five years, by annual instalments of one fifth of the principal sum, together with an interest of six *per cent.* upon the same from the commencement of the said loan until the payment of the first instalment, and with the like rate of interest upon the remaining principal, from time to time, until the whole shall be discharged, and the money so loaned shall be forthwith applied by the said commissioners, or the major part of them, to the building of the said gaol.

An annual tax to be assessed, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That to enable the said commissioners to repay the said loan, an annual tax of two hundred pounds current money, for the term of five years, shall be assessed and levied, by the justices of the levy court of the said county, on all the property therein liable to assessment, together with such sum as shall be necessary to discharge the interest of the said loan, and a commission of six *per cent.* to the collector for the collection thereof; and the said justices shall assess and levy the first of the said taxes, together with the sum necessary for the payment of the said interest and commission, at their levy court to be holden in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-six, and the rest of the said taxes, together with the interest and commission aforesaid, in the four succeeding years, by equal portions, and shall proceed in the assessment thereof in the same manner as in assessing and levying other public charges of the county.

Two hundred pounds to be levied, &c.

V. **And be it enacted,** That the sum of two hundred pounds current money shall be assessed and levied by the said justices at their next levy court to be holden in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-five, together with the collector's commission of six *per cent.* thereon, and the same shall be assessed and levied in the same manner, and upon the same property, as other public charges of the county are assessed and levied; and the said sum shall be assessed and levied for the use of the said commissioners, and be applied by them, in aid of the before mentioned loan, to the building of the said gaol.

To be paid to the commissioners, &c.

VI. **And be it enacted,** That the sheriff, or other person appointed to collect the said respective taxes, shall pay the same to the said commissioners, or the order of the major part of them, at or before the time limited by law for the payment of the county charges in the said respective years, and in default thereof the said sheriff or collector shall be answerable for all interest, damages and costs, which may be payable by, or may arise or accrue to, the said commissioners, in consequence of the said default.

VII. **And,** whereas the escape of prisoners, and too often their inhuman treatment, are occasioned by a want of vigilance and care in the keepers of the gaols, who are usually persons employed by the sheriffs, not sufficiently near to those situations to afford assistance, or to protect the injured, and who, not being immediately amenable for a default of conduct, are not so watchful, or so circumspect in their conduct, as justice and humanity require, and it is apprehended that the residence of the keeper in the gaol will better secure the purposes intended