

C H A P.
CXIX.

rendered on attachments issued from the several courts against persons nonresidents of the then province, (now state,) and doubts exist as to the validity of such rights, and fears are entertained that under the act of confiscation some interest or estate in lands so circumstanced may be vested in this state, to the prejudice of the possessors; therefore,

Right re-
leased, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all right, title, interest, estate and claim, which the state of Maryland hath, or may have, in virtue of the act of confiscation, in and to any lands now held by any person or persons under any judgment of condemnation obtained on attachment prosecuted in any court of record before the fourth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, shall be and the same is hereby released for ever to the respective persons holding and claiming said lands, or any of them, or any part of them, under and in virtue of the title derived through said judgments, or any of them; provided nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with or affect the rights of any citizen or citizens of this state acquired before the passage of this act to any land so circumstanced; provided always, that nothing herein contained shall in any manner affect or defeat the right, if any, of the informer of any of the said lands as liable to confiscation, in case he shall think proper to prosecute the same, under any of the existing laws of this state, within two years next after the passing of this law.

C H A P. CXX.

Passed Janua-
ry 21.

An ACT for rebuilding a bridge over Jones's Falls, in Baltimore county.

Money to be
levied, &c.

BE it enacted, *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the levy court of Baltimore county shall levy and assess on the assessable property of said county, for rebuilding the bridge over Jones's Falls, in the city of Baltimore, commonly called the Lower Bridge, a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars, with the usual commission to the sheriff for collection, to be collected with the county levy in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-eight; which sum of money, when levied and collected, shall be paid to the commissioners herein after named.

Commission-
ers appointed,
&c.

II. *And be it enacted,* That Richard Caton, John O'Donnell and Richard Lawson, shall be and are hereby appointed commissioners to contract for rebuilding the said bridge; and in case any vacancy shall happen in the said appointment of commissioners before the said bridge shall be rebuilt, the remaining commissioners shall supply such vacancy.

C H A P. CXXI.

Passed Janua-
ry 21.

An ACT to separate the criminal business arising in the county and city of Baltimore.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it would tend greatly to the ease and convenience of the inhabitants residing within the county and city of Baltimore, that the criminal business in those respective districts should be separately transacted and administered; therefore,

Criminal of-
fences may be
tried in the
city of Balti-
more, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the first day of March next, the trial and cognizance of all criminal offences, and other matters, arising within the city of Baltimore, which are at this time cognizable by the court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery of Baltimore county, shall be inquired into, heard, tried and determined, within the city of Baltimore, in manner and form following; that is to say, that the governor and council shall nominate, appoint and commission, two persons of integrity and sound judgment, residing within the city or precincts of Baltimore, as associate justices of the Baltimore city court, to act in conjunction with the justice of the third district, to transact the business of said court, and which court shall hereafter be styled, in all legal proceedings, Baltimore City Court, and the said justices, or any two of them, shall be and they are hereby empowered