

randums and vouchers, relating to the said taxes, it shall and may be lawful for the said Peter Lawson to exhibit his complaint thereof, in writing, to the justices of the next county court for such county, and the said justices, on being satisfied thereof by the affidavit of the said Peter Lawson, or otherwise, shall be and they are hereby authorised and required to award an attachment of contempt against the said John Ward Veazey, or any of his said agents, deputies or receivers, so refusing or delaying to comply with such request or demand, returnable immediately; and if, on the appearance of the said parties so attached, they, or either of them, shall pertinaciously refuse or delay to comply with the directions of this act, such parties shall thereupon be fined at the discretion of the said justices, and be committed to the public prison of the said county, until a compliance be obtained, without bail or mainprife.

“ And, whereas it is represented to the general assembly, by the verification of sundry witnesses, that the said John Ward Veazey hath greatly misconducted himself in the said office of collector, and hath neglected to make any payments into the treasury, although there is good reason to believe that he hath made many collections of the said taxes, and hath now in his possession some considerable sums of money received from the citizens of the said county; Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the said Peter Lawson to direct the clerk of Cæcil county to issue a summons for witnesses to be and appear before the said justices at their next succeeding court, to give such evidence concerning the conduct of the said John Ward Veazey, as shall be required of them in court; and if it shall appear to the said justices that the said John Ward Veazey hath collected any sums of money, and hath not accounted therefor, or paid any such sums into the treasury of this state, or that there is good reason to believe that the said John Ward Veazey hath some considerable sum or sums of money in his possession, and hath refused to account for and pay the same, it shall be lawful for the said justices, and they are hereby required, forthwith to issue an attachment against him, returnable immediately, and upon the appearance of the said John Ward Veazey, the said justices shall examine him on interrogatories, tending to discover what sums of money he hath received from the citizens of the said county, their amount, quality and species; to what uses he hath applied the same, and the particular sums thereof; whether he had not, on or about the third or other day of September last, the sum of one thousand pounds in money, or a considerable sum of money; in what manner he hath disposed of such money; whether he hath not, at the time of such inquiry, some considerable sums of money in his possession; whether he is willing to pay over such sums of money as he may have in his possession to the said Peter Lawson; whether he did not acknowledge to some one or more persons that he had such sum of money in his possession; and such other interrogatories as may be proposed by the said justices, at the request of the said Peter Lawson, or otherwise, as shall tend to discover the truth concerning his collection of the said taxes, and the expenditures thereof, and the said interrogatories shall be answered by the said John Ward Veazey upon oath; and if the said John Ward Veazey shall refuse to answer such interrogatories, or shall prevaricate, or otherwise conduct himself pertinaciously before the said justices, or if it shall appear that the said John Ward Veazey hath received, and not accounted for, any sum or sums of money in virtue of his office of collector, it shall be lawful for the said justices, and they are hereby authorised and required, to remand the said John Ward Veazey to the custody of the said sheriff, to be by him committed to the public prison of the said county, there to remain without bail or mainprife until he shall make full and complete answers to the said interrogatories, and render a just and fair account of all the monies by him received in virtue of his said office, and pay over to the said Peter Lawson, for the use of this state, all and every sums of money which shall have been in his possession since the first day of last September; and if the said sheriff shall suffer the said John Ward Veazey to go at large until he shall have so answered, accounted and paid, the said sheriff shall be answerable for all the damages, costs and charges, which shall be sustained by this state, or any party by means thereof, and be also fined in the sum of one hundred pounds current money for such permission, or for his negligence in the escape of the said John Ward Veazey from his confinement.

“ And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That on the application of the said Peter Lawson to the commissioners of the tax of Cæcil county, with the books, papers, accounts, or vouchers aforesaid, when the same shall be produced according to the directions of this act, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or a major part of them, first summoning the deputies, agents or receivers, of the said John Ward Veazey, to settle and adjust their respective accounts concerning the said taxes; and if it shall appear to the said commissioners that the said deputies, agents or receivers, or any of them, have received and not accounted for or paid any of the said taxes, arrearages or balances, the said commissioners shall thereupon limit some reasonable time, within which the several balances due by such deputies, agents or receivers, shall be paid to the said Peter Lawson, or his agents, and on default of payment, the said commissioners shall award such process of execution against the respective defaulters as shall enable the said Peter Lawson most speedily to collect and receive the same.

“ Provided nevertheless, That before the said Peter Lawson shall proceed to execute the said office of collector, he shall enter into bond, with such sufficient securities as shall be approved of by the treasurer of the eastern shore, in the sum of five thousand pounds current money, to the state of Maryland, conditioned for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him by virtue of this act, and for truly accounting with the said treasurer for the collection of the said arrearages and balances; and the said bond shall be recorded among the records of Cæcil county court, and be afterwards transmitted to the clerk of the general court for the eastern shore, to be there recorded and deposited for safe custody.

“ And provided also, That before the said Peter Lawson, or his agents, shall proceed to collect, by execution, any of the said arrearages or balances claimed of any citizen or citizens of the said county,