

C H A P.
XL.

The aforesaid articles of confederation were finally ratified on the first day of March, 1781; the state of Maryland having, by their members in congress, on that day acceded thereto, and completed the same.

C H A P. XLI.

An ACT to compel the payment of the taxes in Somersset county.

C H A P. XLII.

An ACT for the building a goal for the safe keeping of the disaffected and prisoners of war.

In Montgomery county, near the court-house, convenient to a good spring. N.B. It has never been built.

C H A P. XLIII.

An ACT to procure recruits.

Viz. to procure 1,000 men, to serve three years unless sooner discharged. The property in the state is to be divided into classes of £. 16,000, each of which is, within twenty days, to furnish one recruit, who may be either a freeman or a slave. In each class failing to procure a recruit, there is to be a draught five days after the expiration of the 20 days, and the person drawn is to be considered, to all intents an enlisted soldier, until the 10th of December, 1781, entitled however to be discharged, if within twenty days he find a substitute.

C H A P. XLIV.

A Supplement to the act to procure recruits.

The executive are empowered, at discretion, to suspend, until the next session, the draught generally, or in such counties only as have exerted themselves in procuring recruits.

Persons re-
enlisting enti-
tled to a certi-
ficate, &c.

III. **Be it enacted**, That in case any person, sufficient and proper to be passed as a recruit, who hath already served one year or more in the continental army, and hath been discharged, and shall enter as a recruit according to the act of the present session to procure recruits, shall not only be entitled to all the benefits proposed by the said act, but also to a certificate for the depreciation of the pay which became due to him while he was in service, between the first of January seventeen hundred and seventy-seven and the last day of July last, as if he was in the quota of this state of the continental army at the time of passing the act of the present session to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state in the service of the United States, and for other purposes.

C H A P. XLV.

An ACT to seize, confiscate and appropriate, all British property within this state.

Preamble.

WHEREAS Great-Britain commenced an unjust war against the United States, and because of their defending themselves against her unprovoked and unjustifiable violence, declared the people of these states rebels, and out of the protection of her government; and now prosecutes the war against them on pretence of their being revolted colonies and in rebellion, and hath confiscated the property of some of the citizens of these states; the British army and navy, and other armed vessels, acting under the authority of the British king, have seized in this and other of the United States the negroes and other property of the citizens of these states, and the property so seized have carried off and disposed of at their will and pleasure; the said army and navy, and other armed vessels, have committed various outrages on the persons, and devastations on the property, of the people of these United States, contrary to the practice of civilized nations, and the present usage of war, in burning houses and towns, without any necessity, out of mere wantonness and cruelty; unfortunate American prisoners, by cruel usage and threats, have been compelled to enlist in the army of their enemies, and fight against their country; and many of the citizens of these states, taken captive, have been forced on board ships of war, and compelled, under an act of the parliament of Great-Britain, and the cruel execution of it by the officers of the king of Great-Britain, to fight against their country, their friends and relations; And whereas the subjects of Great-Britain possess considerable landed and other property in this state, which the legislature, from a disinclination to distress individuals, hath suffered to remain in the hands and management of their agents, hoping that a conduct so moderate would induce the enemy to respect the rights of humanity, emulate the example, and alleviate the calamities