

C H A P.
IX.

to cast up the number of votes which have at each distinct place been given in to the judges or clerks aforesaid, and after a full examination of the same, shall be signed by any or either of the judges holding the said election, and cause the same to be immediately thereafter published; and at the conclusion of all the said elections, the judges aforesaid shall also publish the number of votes taken as aforesaid, specifying the place where the several votes express the voters judgment, whereby the sense of the people will be ascertained.

Greatest number to determine, &c.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That at the place where the greatest number of voters shall appear to be in favour of, shall for the present be deemed and taken the place where the courts and elections of the county aforesaid shall be held, and is hereby declared to be the true and proper place for holding the same, until a court-house and gaol shall be erected thereon, and then for ever thereafter.

Justices to purchase land, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of Cecil county court, or the major part of them, (upon a certificate returned to them by the judges by this act appointed, therein particularly specifying their proceedings in the elections aforesaid, and more especially the number of voters for each place,) be and are hereby authorized and empowered, on or before their next court for laying the county charge, to go to the place where the greater number of voters appear to be in favour of, and there make choice of any quantity, not exceeding four acres, of land, whereon to build such a court-house and gaol as they shall think necessary, and to agree with the owner or owners of such land for the purchase thereof for ever; and in case the owner or owners of such land shall refuse to make sale of such quantity, not exceeding four acres, of land, at a reasonable price, or be under any disability of making thereof, then the said justices, or the major part of them, shall be and are by virtue of this act authorized and required to issue their warrants to the sheriff of the said county, requiring and commanding him to empanel and return a jury of the most substantial freeholders, (not less than twelve,) inhabitants within the said county, to be and appear before the said justices at the place, upon a certain day to be by them appointed; which jury, upon their oaths, to be by the said justices, or the major part of them, to the said jurors administered, shall inquire into the value of the said quantity, not exceeding four acres of land, and the damages the owner or owners thereof will sustain by the building a court-house and gaol thereon, and what sum of current money the said jurors shall allow to the owner or owners of such land, and damages for building a court-house and gaol thereon, shall be paid to the owner or owners of such land by the county aforesaid, and the county entitled to such land for ever; and the said justices, or the major part of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to cause the said quantity, not exceeding four acres of land, to be laid out by a surveyor, and a certificate thereof to be returned and recorded in the county court records, and to treat and agree with undertakers or workmen to build and finish a prison as soon as possible on the land aforesaid; and the said justices, with the consent of the commissioners of the tax, shall cause a court-house to be built on said land, when the expence thereof can be easily borne by the people of the county aforesaid, and the charge of the said works, and cost of the lands, to levy upon the said county by an equal assessment of the taxable property and persons therein.

Courts to be held in new court-house, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That after the finishing of the said court-house to be built as aforesaid, the several courts of Cecil county shall be held in such new court-house, and not elsewhere, unless in the case of evident necessity, and such new house shall be taken, held and deemed to be, the proper court-house of Cecil county.

Old court-house to be sold, &c.

X. AND, for empowering the justices of the said county court to make sale of the now court-house and prison belonging to the said county, BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of the said county court, or the major part of them, are hereby authorized and required, with all convenient speed, to make sale of the said old court-house and prison, with the right of the county to the land thereto belonging, to the best purchaser or purchasers, and to convey an estate thereof to them, their heirs and assigns; and the money that shall arise from the sale thereof shall be applied to the use of the county, towards defraying the charge thereof.

C H A P. X.

Passed 22d of Jan. 1782.

An ACT for an election to determine at what place the court-house and prison of Harford county shall be built. Lib. TBH. No. A. fol. 93.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the inhabitants of Harford county, by their petition to this general assembly, have set forth, that there has subsisted for a considerable time past a diversity of sentiment among them, about the most proper place in the said county on which to erect their court-house and prison, and