

and prayed that the place might be determined by a majority of the voters of the county, which this assembly hath thought proper to grant; C H A P. X.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That to ascertain the place in Harford county on which the court-house and prison for the said county shall be built, an election shall be held by the commissioners of the tax, or any two of them; of the said county, at Harford-town, on the third Monday in March next; of which ten days, by advertisement, shall be given by the commissioners aforesaid, at the court-house, churches, chapels, meeting-houses, and other public places in said county, and all persons qualified to vote for delegates shall have a right to suffrage; and the said commissioners shall be the judges of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, if necessary, till the same be finished; so that it be concluded in four days; and the said commissioners shall summon two justices of the peace, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace; and the said commissioners shall appoint a clerk or clerks for taking the poll; and the said commissioners, before they proceed to receive any vote, shall take an oath, "that they will permit all persons to vote at the election to be held in virtue of this act, who in their judgment are qualified to vote as aforesaid, if such person, before his voting, shall be objected against by any three of the electors, and that they will in all things execute the office of judges of the said election, according to the best of their knowledge, without favour, affection or partiality;" and every person appointed clerk of the said election shall, before he enters any vote on the polls, take an oath, "that he will well and faithfully, without favour, affection or partiality, execute the office of the clerk of the said election."

An election to be held, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That not more than four places, to wit: Harford-town, Otter Point, Cross Roads, otherwise Gravelly Hill, Lower Cross Roads, and Aquila Scott's (of James) Old Field, shall be voted for; and if two only are proposed, the place for which a majority of votes shall appear shall be the place on which the court-house and prison for the said county shall be erected, and if more than two places are voted for, there shall be a second election held at Harford-town, in like manner as the first, on the third Monday of April next, and the voters shall be confined to the two places which on the first election had the greatest number of votes, and the place for which a majority of votes shall appear shall be the place on which the court-house and prison of the said county shall be built.

Places to be voted for, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of Harford county are hereby authorized and required to purchase, in fee, a quantity of land not exceeding four acres, at the place determined as aforesaid as the most proper place in the said county on which to erect the public buildings, for the purpose of building thereon a court-house and prison for the said county, and shall cause the said land to be laid out by the surveyor of the county with good and sufficient boundaries, and a certificate thereof to be delivered to the clerk of the county, who shall record the same; and the said justices shall pay the purchase money out of the money collected by act of assembly for the building a court-house and prison in the said county, and on payment the said land shall become the property of the said county for ever; and if the said justices and the owner of the land cannot agree on the price thereof, or the owner shall be under any disability to contract for the sale thereof, the said justices are authorized to order the sheriff of Harford county to summon twelve freeholders upon the said land, who shall be empannelled and sworn as a jury to inquire the value of the said land, and the said justices shall pay the sum declared by the said jury to be the value of the land, and thereupon the property in the said land shall be vested in the said county for ever, for the purposes aforesaid.

Justices to purchase land, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said justices of Harford county be authorized to rent, at the expence of the county, such house or houses as they may think proper, in which to hold the courts for the said county; and to keep the books, papers and records thereof, until the court-house shall be built; and the said justices may also procure, at their county charge, some fit, convenient and safe building, in the county, for the custody of debtors and prisoners, (at the place to be ascertained agreeable to this act on which to erect the public buildings for the said county,) until the prison for the said county shall be built and ready for the reception of debtors and prisoners.

To rent a house, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the justices of Harford county be empowered and required to contract, as soon as may be, for the building of a court-house and prison on the land to be purchased as aforesaid; and to pay the expence thereof out of the money already collected for that purpose; and the said justices are required first to agree for the erecting a prison for the said county, and to apply as much of the public money belonging to the said county as may be necessary for that purpose.

And to contract, &c.