

in mentioned, as authorized the commissioners appointed to preserve confiscated British property to grant warrants, and to contract for the sale of escheat lands, shall be and is hereby repealed. C H A P. XX.

C H A P. XXI.

An ACT for the relief of Patrick Hamilton, John Page, Clement Beall, Thomas Williams, Benjamin Cawood, and Joseph Baxter, and the several collectors of the tax. *PR.*

C H A P. XXII.

An ACT to regulate public ferries.

BE it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the justices of the several county courts be authorized and required, at their respective March courts, during the continuance of this act, to grant their licence to any inhabitant of their county to keep a public ferry, at any place within their county now used as such, if the said justices shall think that a public ferry ought there to be kept and established, and from such place to any other county, or from this to any other state; and every licence shall be renewed at every March court during the continuance of this act; and the said justices may, at any other court than March court, grant licence to any person not before licensed, to continue until the next March court thereafter; and if any person, after the first day of April next, shall presume to keep ferry, for hire or reward, without obtaining licence agreeable to this act, such person shall forfeit five pounds current money for every offence. Justices to grant licences, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That the justices of the several county courts shall, at their respective March courts (or oftener if they think proper) ascertain in current money the price of ferriage for passengers and horses, and the several kinds of carriages (not allowing any thing for the baggage of passengers) at every ferry by them licensed; and the said justices shall direct how many and what kind of boats shall be kept, and what number of able bodied and skilful hands shall be employed in the boats at every ferry by them licensed, and the same shall be expressed in the licence; and every person keeping a public ferry shall keep, constantly set up in the most public part of his house, a copy of his licence, and the prices allowed him for ferriage, under the penalty of five pounds current money for every day such copy shall not be set up as required by this act; and if any licensed ferry-keeper shall ask or receive, directly or indirectly, more than the price allowed for ferriage, he shall, for every demand or receipt, forfeit twenty shillings current money; and every person, on obtaining licence, shall enter into recognizance, in the sum of fifty pounds current money, with two sufficient sureties, conditioned, that he will faithfully and diligently keep the ferry, for which he shall obtain licence, with such boats and hands as the justices granting the licence shall direct, from day-light to day-light from the first of November to the first of March, and from an hour before to an hour after day-light for the residue of the year, and that he will not charge or receive any greater price for ferriage than allowed by law; and every ferry-keeper shall pay to the clerk of the court for taking such recognizance, and making out his licence and a fair copy of the rates of ferriage, the sum of five shillings current money. To ascertain the price of ferriage, &c.

III. And be it enacted, If the proprietor of any place now used as a public ferry, and which the justices of the county shall think proper to be continued, shall neglect to take out licence agreeable to this act, or to rent such ferry, with the houses and land heretofore commonly used with, or necessary for, such ferry, to such person as the said justices shall approve, or be under any disability to take out licence or to rent as aforesaid, that in such case the said justices shall issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county, to summon twelve reputable persons, qualified by law to be jurymen, to meet on the premises, on a day to be appointed, to estimate, on oath, in current money, the annual value of the land, not exceeding three acres, or including the dwelling-house or garden, orchard or meadow, more than sufficient for a road, of the owner or possessor, necessary, and most convenient in their judgment for the use of such ferry; and the sheriff shall make return of the inquest, together with a certificate of survey of the said land May cause land to be valued, &c.