

**C H A P. LVII.** ten ruinous to the parties and injurious to trade, to compel such persons to appear at the next criminal court: **Be it enacted,** That, on any such complaint, it shall be lawful for any two or more of the said justices to hear the complaint, and to impose such fine on the offender as they may think reasonable, and to commit for non-payment thereof; and such fines shall be paid to the sheriff of Baltimore county; provided, that either party, if the fact is controverted, may elect to have a trial by jury, and in such case the complainants shall give security to prosecute, and the defendant to answer, the complaint at the next criminal court.

Justices may order persons to be apprehended, &c.

**XXIII. And be it enacted,** That any one of the said justices shall have full power to order any person within Baltimore-town, or the precincts thereof, whom he shall suspect of being a vagrant, vagabond, or disorderly person, or common prostitute, to appear before any two or more of the said justices, and such order shall be served by any constable of the said county; and if, on the appearance of such person, and examination by testimony, any two or more of the said justices shall determine such person to come within any of the said descriptions, the said justices may adjudge such person to serve and labour as a criminal, if a male, as a male criminal, if a female, as a female criminal, according to this act, for any time not exceeding one year, unless good security be given to such justices, to their satisfaction, for the good behaviour of such person for any time not exceeding one year thereafter.

What persons shall be adjudged vagrants, &c.

**XXIV. And,** to ascertain what persons shall be deemed vagrants, vagabonds and disorderly persons, within the intention of this act, **Be it enacted,** That every person who has no visible means of maintenance, from property or personal labour, and lives idle without employment, and every person who wanders about, and begs in the streets, or from door to door, and every person who wanders abroad, and lodges in out-houses, barns, market-places, or the open air, and cannot give a good account of the means by which he procures a living, and every woman who is generally reputed a common prostitute, and every juggler, or fortune-teller, or common gambler, shall be adjudged a vagrant, vagabond, or disorderly person, within the meaning of this act.

Persons condemned in any state may be adjudged to labour, &c.

**XXV.** Whereas it is represented, that persons condemned in other states to labour, as a punishment for their crimes, have escaped and come into Baltimore county, and have been taken up as vagrants; **Be it enacted,** That any two or more of the said justices may adjudge any person, condemned in any of the United States to labour, as a punishment for any crime, to serve and labour as a criminal, according to this act, for any term not exceeding the residue of the term for which such person shall have been condemned, and which condemnation shall appear to the said justices by the record of conviction; but if such person shall be demanded by the state from whence he escaped, he shall be immediately delivered agreeably to such demand.

Justices may appoint constables, &c.

**XXVI. And be it enacted,** That the said justices be authorized to appoint any number of constables they may think proper, and to displace them, and appoint others in their room, for the execution of this act; and the said justices may allow such constables such reward as the said justices may think reasonable, and they may assess on Baltimore county any sum not exceeding two hundred pounds current money, for that purpose, which shall be collected with the county assessment.

Expence to be paid by Baltimore county, &c.

**XXVII. And be it enacted,** That the expence attending the execution of this act, shall be paid by Baltimore county, and shall be assessed by the said justices, and collected with the county assessment; and the said justices are hereby directed to publish, in one of the Baltimore news-papers, a statement of the money by them annually received and expended in virtue of this act, and to return a duplicate of said account or accounts annually to the general assembly, at their November sessions.

**XXVIII. And**