

CHAP.
XLV.

burgh, thence along the middle of the said road to a stone standing on the east side of the reedy branch of Goose Creek, thence south-easterly, making an angle of sixty-one degrees and twenty minutes with the meridian, to a stone standing in the road leading from Bladensburg to the Eastern Branch ferry, thence south to a stone eighty poles north of the east and west line already drawn from the mouth of Goose Creek to the Eastern Branch, then east, parallel to the said east and west line, to the Eastern Branch, then with the waters of the Eastern Branch, Patowmack river and Rock Creek, to the beginning; which hath since been called the City of Washington: And whereas it appears to this general assembly highly just and expedient, that all the lands within the said city should contribute, in due proportion, in the means which have already very greatly enhanced the value of the whole; that an incontrovertible title ought to be made to the purchasers, under public sanction; that allowing foreigners to hold land within the said territory, will greatly contribute to the improvement and population thereof; and that many temporary provisions will be necessary, till congress exercise the jurisdiction and government over the said territory: And whereas, in the cession of this state, heretofore made, of territory for the government of the United States, the lines of such cession could not be particularly designated; and it being expedient and proper that the same should be recognised in the acts of this state,

Territory
ceded to con-
gress, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all that part of the said territory, called Columbia, which lies within the limits of this state, shall be and the same is hereby acknowledged to be for ever ceded and relinquished to the congress and government of the United States, in full and absolute right, and exclusive jurisdiction, as well of soil as of persons residing, or to reside, thereon, pursuant to the tenor and effect of the eighth section of the first article of the constitution of government of the United States; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil, as to affect the rights of individuals therein, otherwise than the same shall or may be transferred by such individuals to the United States; and provided also, that the jurisdiction of the laws of this state, over the persons and property of individuals residing within the limits of the cession aforesaid, shall not cease or determine until congress shall by law provide for the government thereof, under their jurisdiction, in manner provided by the article of the constitution before recited.

Lands sub-
jected to same
terms, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That all the lands belonging to minors, persons absent out of the state, married women, or persons *non compos mentis*, or lands the property of this state, within the limits of Carrollsburgh and Hamburg, shall be and are hereby subjected to the terms and conditions herein before recited, as to the lots where the proprietors thereof have agreed concerning the same; and all the other lands, belonging as aforesaid, within the limits of the said city of Washington, shall be and are hereby subjected to the same terms and conditions as the said Notley Young, Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, and others, have, by their said agreements and deeds, subjected their lands to, and where no conveyances have been made, the legal estate and trust are hereby invested in the said Thomas Beall, son of George, and John Mackall Gantt, in the same manner as if each proprietor had been competent to make, and had made, a legal conveyance of his or her land, according to the form of those already mentioned, with proper acknowledgments of the execution thereof, and, where necessary, of release of dower; and in every case where the proprietor is an infant, a married woman, insane, absent out of this state, or shall not attend on three months advertisement of notice in the Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Advertiser, the Maryland Herald, and in the George-town and Alexandria papers, so that allotment cannot take place by agreement, the commissioners aforesaid, or any two of them, may allot and assign the portion or share of such proprietor, as near the old situation as may be, in Carrollsburgh and Hamburg, and to the full value of what the party might claim under the terms before recited; and, as to the other lands within the said city, the commissioners aforesaid, or any two of them, shall make such allotment and assignment, within the lands belonging to the same person, in alternate lots, determining by lot or ballot whether the party shall begin with the lowest number; provided, that in the cases of coverture and infancy, if the husband,