

C H A P.
EXVIII

and fixing the rates thereof, within the city and precincts, and for regulating the sweeping of any chimney, by the neglect of which the safety of the city may be endangered; and to ascertain the width of those to be built in the city; to establish and regulate fire wards and fire companies; to regulate and establish the size of bricks that are to be used in the houses to be built in the city; to erect and regulate pumps in the streets, lanes and alleys; to impose and appropriate fines, penalties and forfeitures, for the breach of their by-laws or ordinances; to lay and collect taxes, not exceeding two dollars in the hundred pounds in any one year, except as before is excepted; to enact by-laws for the prevention and extinguishment of fire; and to pass all ordinances necessary to give effect and operation to all the powers vested in the corporation of the city of Baltimore; provided, that the by-laws or ordinances of the said corporation shall be in no wise obligatory upon the persons of nonresidents of the said town, being citizens of this state, unless in cases of intentional violation of by-laws or ordinances previously promulgated; all the fines, penalties and forfeitures, imposed by the ordinances of the corporation of the city of Baltimore, if not exceeding twenty dollars, shall be recovered before a single magistrate, as small debts are by law recoverable, and if such fines, penalties and forfeitures, do exceed the sum of twenty dollars, then to be recovered by action of debt, in Baltimore county court, in the name of the corporation, and for the use of the city of Baltimore.

Powers of the
commission-
ers to cease,
&c.

X. And be it enacted, That the powers and authority vested in the town commissioners, special commissioners and port wardens, heretofore appointed by law for Baltimore-town, except the authority of the town commissioners to hold elections agreeably to the constitution and form of government, shall cease and determine as soon as this act shall be in force and operation; and the corporation of the city of Baltimore are hereby declared to possess, and may provide for the exercise of, all powers and authorities now vested in the said town commissioners, special commissioners and port wardens, except the holding of elections for delegates to the general assembly, but no rights acquired under the acts of the aforesaid boards shall be annulled, impaired, avoided or restrained, by any act of the said corporation; and immediately upon the operation of this act, and organization of the corporation contemplated thereby, the records, papers, proceedings, monies, accounts, and all other matters and things appertaining to the said commissioners of Baltimore, special commissioners and port wardens, shall be lodged and deposited with such person or persons as shall be appointed by the mayor and corporation of the city to receive the same; and all acts of the legislature of the state of Maryland now in force shall continue and remain in force, but the powers and authorities thereby delegated to the commissioners of Baltimore-town, special commissioners and port wardens, or any other tribunal or persons, touching the police of Baltimore-town, or any of its internal concerns, shall be and they are hereby transferred and vested in the corporation hereby constituted, and the said corporation are hereby empowered to act under such laws, in the same manner, and as fully, as if the said corporation had been particularly named in such laws; the mayor shall, in virtue of his office, have and exercise all the jurisdiction and powers of a justice of the peace, except as to the recovery of small debts, and may call upon any officer of the city intrusted with the receipt and expenditure of public money for a statement of his accounts, as often as he or the corporation may conceive it necessary; he shall see that the ordinances are duly and faithfully executed, and shall report annually to the corporation, during the first five days of their session, a general state of the city, with an accurate account of the money received and expended, to be published for the information of the citizens; the mayor and corporation of the city of Baltimore, the judges and clerks of the elections, and all other officers of the city, before they enter upon the execution of their respective offices, shall severally take the following oath, or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear, or affirm, as the case may be, that I will faithfully execute the office of _____ to the best of my knowledge and ability, without favour, affection or partiality."

XI. And