AN ACT,

Concerning the District of Columbia.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled,* That the laws of the state of Virginia, as they now exist, shall be and continue in force, in that part of the District of Columbia which was ceded by the said state, to the United States, and by them accepted for the permanent seat of government; and that the laws of the state of Maryland, as they now exist, shall be and continue in force in that part of the said district, which was ceded by that state to the United States, and by them accepted as aforesaid.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said District of Columbia shall be formed into two counties, one comprehending all that part of said District which lies on the east side of the river Potowmac, together with the islands therein, and shall be called the county of Washington; the other county shall contain all that part of said district which lies on the west side of said river, and shall be called the county of Alexandria; and the said rivers, in its whole course through said District, shall be deemed, to all intents and purposes, to be within both of said counties.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That there shall be a court in said District which shall be called the circuit court of the District of Columbia; and the said court and the judges thereof, shall have all the powers by law vested in the circuit courts of the United States. Said court shall consist of one chief judge, and two assistant judges resident within said District, to be by the respective officers during good behavior, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum; and each of the said judges shall, before he enter on his office, take the oath or affirmation provided by law to be taken by the judges of the circuit courts of the United States; and said court shall have powers to appoint a clerk of the court in each of said counties, who shall take the oath, and give a bond with sureties, in the manner directed for clerks of the district courts, in the act to establish the judiciary of the United States.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That said court shall, annually, hold four sessions in each of said counties, to commence as follows, to wit: For the county of Washington, on the city of Washington, on the fourth Mondays of March, June, September, and December; for the county of Alexandria, at Alexandria, on the second Mondays of January, April, July, and the fifth Monday of October.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That said court shall have cognizance of all crimes and offences committed within said District, and of all cases in law and equity between parties, both or either of which shall be resident, or be found, within said District; and also of all actions, or suits, of a civil nature at common law or in equity, to which the United States shall be plaintiffs, or complainants; and of all seizures on land or water, and all penalties and forfeitures made, arising, or accruing, under the laws of the United States.

Sec. 6. *Provided, and be it further enacted,* That all local actions shall be commenced in their proper counties, and that no action or suit shall be brought before said court by any original process against any person who shall not be an inhabitant of, or found within said District at the time of serving the writ.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That there shall be a marshal for the said District, who shall have the custody of the jails of said counties, and be accountable for the safe keeping of all prisoners legally committed therein; and he shall be appointed for the same term, shall take the same oaths, give a bond with the same, in the same manner, shall have generally within said District the same powers, and perform the same duties, as is by law directed and provided in the case of marshals of the United States.

Sec. 8. *Be it further enacted,* That any final judgment, order or decree, in said circuit court, wherein the matter in dispute exclusive of costs, shall exceed the sum or one hundred dollars, may be re-examined, and reversed or affirmed, in the supreme court of the United States, by writ of error or appeal, which shall be prosecuted in the same manner, under the same regulations, and the same proceedings shall be had therein, as is, or shall be, provided, in the case of writs of error on judgments, or appeals upon orders or decrees, rendered in the circuit courts of the United States.

Sec. 9. *Be it further enacted,* That there shall be appointed an attorney of the United States for said District, who shall take the oath, and perform all the duties required of the district attorneys of the United States; and the said attorney, marshal, and clerks, shall be entitled to receive for their respective services, the fees, perquisites, and emoluments, which are by law allowed respectively to the attorney, marshal, and clerk, of the United States, for the district of Maryland.

Sec. 10. *Be it further enacted,* That the chief judge to be appointed by virtue of this act, shall receive an annual salary, of six thousand dollars, and the two assistant judges of sixteen hundred dollars each, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 11. *Be it further enacted,* That there shall be appointed, in and for each of the said counties, such number of discreet persons to be justices of the peace, as the President of the United States shall from time to time think expedient, to continue in office five years; and such justices, having taken an oath for the faithful and impartial discharge of the duties of the office, shall, in all matters civil and criminal, and in whatever relates to the conservation of the peace, have all the powers vested in Justices of the peace, and shall perform all duties required of justices of the peace as individual magistrates, by the laws herein before continued in force in those parts of said district, for which they shall have been respectively appointed; and they shall have cognizance in personal demands to the value of twenty dollars, exclusive of costs, which sum they shall not exceed, any law to the contrary notwithstanding; and they shall be entitled to receive for their services, the fees allowed for like services, by the laws herein before adopted, and continued in the eastern part of said district.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be appointed in and for each of the said counties, a register of wills, and a judge to be called the judge of the orphans' court, who shall each take an oath for the faithful and impartial discharge of the duties of his office; and shall have all the powers, perform all the duties, and receive the like fees, as are exercised, performed, and received, by the registers of wills, and judges of the orphans' court, within the state of Maryland; and appeals from the said courts shall lie to the circuit court of said district, who shall thereon have all the powers of the chancellor of the said state.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That in all cases where judgments or decrees have been obtained, or hereafter shall be obtained, on suits now depending in any of the courts of the commonwealth of Virginia, or of the state of Maryland, where the defendant resides, or has property within the district of Columbia, it shall be lawful for the plaintiff in such case, upon filing a exemplification of the record and proceedings in such suits, with the clerk of the court of the county where the defendant resides, or his property may be found, to issue an writ of execution thereon, returnable to the said court, which shall be proceeded on in the same manner as if the judgment or decree had originally been obtained in said court.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That all actions, suits, process, pleadings, and other proceedings of what nature or kind soever, depending or existing in the courts of Indiana for the towns of Alexandria and George-town, shall be and hereby are continued over to the circuit courts, to be holden by virtue of this act, within the district of Columbia, in manner following, that is to say: all such as shall then be depending and undetermined before the court of influngs for the town of Alexandria, to the next circuit court herein ordered to be holden in the county of Alexandria; and all such as shall then be depending and undetermined before the court of influngs for George-town, to the next circuit court herein ordered to be holden in the city of Washington: *Provided nevertheless,* That where the personal demand in such cases, exclusive of costs, does not exceed the value of twenty dollars, the justices of the peace within their respective counties, shall have cognizance thereof.

Sec. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That all writs and processes whatsoever, which shall hereafter issue from the courts hereby established within the district, shall be tested in the name of the chief judge of the district of Columbia.

Sec. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in this act contained shall in any wise alter, impeach, or impair the rights granted by or derived from the acts of incorporation of Alexandria and Georgetown, or of any other body corporate or politic within said district, except so far as relates to the judicial powers of the corporations of Georgetown and Alexandria; and that the inhabitants of Maryland, and for the freeholders of Fairfax county in the commonwealth of Virginia, shall respectively have full power and authority to enter into those parts of the new district of Columbia, which were heretofore within the limits of their respective bailiwicks, for the purpose of collecting by distress or otherwise, as they were heretofore authorized to do, all officers fees, state taxes and county taxes, levies, fines and other public dues which were due on the first Monday of December one thousand eight hundred and one, and still remain uncollected from persons residing or having property subject to the payment of such officers fees, state taxes and county taxes, and levies within the said district; and all disputes or controversies that do or may arise between such sheriff or collector, and the person or persons from whom he or they may claim such public dues, shall be cognizable before and tried by the respective state courts to whom the trial of such controversies heretofore belonged, and not before the court of the district of Columbia.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for the sheriffs of the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's in the state of Maryland, and for the sheriff of Fairfax county in the commonwealth of Virginia, and they shall respectively have full power and authority to enter into those parts of the new district of Columbia, which were heretofore within the limits of their respective bailiwicks, for the purpose of arresting and conducting to the respective gaols under their keeping and care as they heretofore might have done, had the law to which this is a supplement, never passed; such persons as shall be found in the limits of the district of Columbia, upon whom such sheriff hath heretofore served a writ of capias ad respondendum, capias ad repondendum, attachment or other process issuing from any state court which commands and requires such sheriff to have the body of the person before the court from which such writ or process hath issued.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That where by this act, and the act to which this is a supplement, appointments are authorized to be made by the circuit courts of the United States, it shall be lawful for the chief judge, with one of the associate justices of the said court, to make such appointments.

The Subscriber

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public, that he intends to practise the LAW in the Counties of Alexandria and Washington Counties in the District of Columbia; and to the Supreme Court of the United States.—The Public may rely on his attention to any business confided to his care, and his abilities, on occasions of every kind prepared with correctness and dispatch.—Fees for Counsel, and Lodging by the week, month, or year.

Letters post paid will be attended to.

By the Publisher Gordon's Servant.

ROBERT W. PEACOCK.

City of Washington, New-Jersey Avenue, near the Capitol. March 2, 1801. 1f

☞ A few Gentlemen may be accommodated with Boarding and Lodging by the week, month, or year. R. W. P.

Chesapeake & Delaware Canal.

WHEREAS an act of the general assembly of the state of Maryland, passed at the fifteen of July, 1799, for the incorporation of a company for cutting and making a canal be we the waters of Delaware river and Chesapeake bay," and authorising commissioners, in the state of Maryland, to open books for receiving subscriptions for the same; (provided that the state of Pennsylvania, shall pass a similar act, authorising the same, and the state of Pennsylvania should repeal that law which prevents the removal of commissioners, to inquire and take information being received that these respective laws are passed, Notice is hereby given, that books for receiving such subscriptions, in Shares of two hundred dollars each, are left with David Harris, esq. at the Office of Division and Deposit; Mr. Richard Caton, Baltimore; and with Samuel H. Smith's Washington.

WM. MATTHEWS, SAMUEL DAVIES, } Two of the commissioners for the state of the state of Maryland.

March 4th. 3t

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