BY AUTHORITY.

AN ACT

Authorizing the erection of a bridge over the river Potomac, within the district of Columbia.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the following persons, viz. Robert Brent, Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, Thomas Munroe, James D. Barry, Frederick May, Samuel Harrison Smith, Jonah Thompson, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Powell, Cuthbert Powell, Elisha Janney and Charles Alexander, or any seven of them, be, and they are hereby constituted a board of commissioners, with full power and authority to open, or cause to be opened, books for receiving and entering subscriptions for raising a capital stock, not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars each, for the purpose of erecting a bridge over the river Potomac, between the city of Washington and Alexander's island, and making such other incidental works, and defraying such other incidental expenses, as shall be required by this act, or deemed necessary or expedient, by the company hereinafter named; the time, place, and manner, of receiving and entering such subscriptions, to be ascertainnd by the said board of commissioners, and duly advertised in such Gazettes, as they may deem expedient: *Provided*, That the time to be fixed upon by the said board of commissioners, for opening books for receiving the said subscriptions, shall be on or before the first Monday in July next, and that no subscription shall be received, unless the sum of ten dollars be first paid into the hands of the person authorized to receive the same, on each share subscribed for.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever nineteen hundred of the said shares shall be subscribed for, all persons who may then be, or thereafter may become, the actual holders or proprietors of shares in the said capital stock, either as subscribers for the same, or as the legal representatives, successors, or assignees of such subscribers, shall be, and they are hereby made and created a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Washington Bridge Company," and by that name may sue, and be sued, implead, and be impleaded, and do and suffer all acts, matters, and things, which a body politic and corporate may lawfully do and suffer; and may have a common seal, and the same may break and alter at pleasure, and may make all by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances for the good government and well being of the said company, and for carrying into effect the objects of their institution, so that such by-laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances, be not repugnant to the laws of the United States, in force within the district of Columbia.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That when nineteen hundred of the said shares shall be subscribed for, as aforesaid, or as soon after as may be, the said board of commissioners, shall call a meeting of the company, at the city of Washington, by public advertisement, in one or more Gazettes published in Washington, Alexandria, or Georgetown, appointing a fit and convenient time and place of meeting, for the purpose of electing five directors, a clerk, and a treasurer, and such other officers, agents and servants, as the said company may think fit to appoint, and for transacting any other business, in pursuance of this act, and appertaining to the nature and objects of the institution of the said company; and the said board of commissioners shall, if necessary, adjourn the said meeting, from time to time, until a quorum shall be formed; and a majority of the said company, or the proprietors of two thirds of the number of shares actually subscribed for, their legal representatives, successors, or proxies, shall be a quorum to do business; and the said board of commissioners, before opening the said subscription books, shall ascertain and publish, in their said advertisement, a fit and convenient mode of authenticating all powers of attorney authorising subscriptions to be made in the name of any person or persons; and before calling a meeting of the said company, shall ascertain and publish, in their advertisement, a fit and convenient mode of authenticating all instruments of writing authorizing any person or persons, to act and vote at such meeting, as the proxy or proxies of any member of the said company; all which powers of attorney and instruments of writing shall be filed with the clerk of the said company, and by him be safely kept among the records and documents appertaining to his office; and as soon as a quorum of the said company, and a board of directors shall be formed, as aforesaid, all the powers, authority, and duties whatsoever, by this act vested in the said board of commissioners, shall cease and determine, and thenceforward become vested in the directors, for the time being, of the said company, under such limitations and restrictions, as the said company may think fit to prescribe; and the said board of commissioners shall account to the said company, at the first meeting of the same, for all monies received by them or their agents, on account of such subscriptions, and shall immediately pay over the same to the treasurer of the said company, or to such other person or persons, as the said company may direct and appoint: the said company, nevertheless, to allow all just credits for monies actually and necessarily expended by the said board of commissioners, in the execution of their said trust and duties.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall be annually holden on the first Monday in January, a meeting of the said company, for the purpose of electing five directors, a clerk and a treasurer: and the said company shall have power, at any meeting, legally called and constituted, in pursuance of this act, to displace any of their directors or officers, and to supply, by a new election or appointment, all vacancies that may happen among the directors or officers of the company; and the said company shall have power to prescribe and regulate the powers and duties of the said directors, and of all other officers of the company: and a majority of the said directors may, from time to time, elect one of their body as a president, and may provisionally supply, by their own election, any vacancies that may happen among the number of directors, or among any of the officers of the company, and the persons so elected by the said directors, may continue in office till the next legal meeting of the company; and the directors of the said company, to be elected, in pursuance of this act, shall, unless sooner displaced by the said company, continue in office until the first Monday in January next, succeeding their election, and from that time until a new election shall be made by the said company.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That a meeting of the said company may, at any time be called by a majority of the directors of the company, for the time being, and by one third of the members of the said company, or by the proprietors of one third of the shares actually subscribed for, or the legal representatives or successor of such members or proprietors: *Provided, however,* That no meeting of the said company shall be legal or valid, unless a quorum shall be formed, consisting of the majority of the members of the said company, or of the proprietors of at least two thirds of the number of shares actually subscribed for, their legal representatives, successors or proxies, nor unless the place (being within the city of Washington,) and the time of such meeting be previously advertised, for three weeks successively, in one or more Gazettes, in the city of Washington, Alexandria, or Georgetown.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the said shares shall be negociable and transferable from one to another by assignments in writing, executed before two witnesses at the least, and authenticated and registered, as the said company may prescribe and direct in their by-laws and regulations.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That in suits at law against the said company, the first process shall be a summons, to be served on the president, or any one or more of the directors of the said company; upon the service and return of which summons, if no appearance shall be entered for the said company, at the return term, the court may order the general issue to be entered on record, and may proceed to trial and judgment, in like manner as if an appearance had been entered, and the issue made up by the said company; and if judgment shall be recovered against the said company, the court may order the usual process of execution, or a special writ to attach the money, goods, chattels, debts, choses in action, and tolls in the hands of any officer of the said company, or of any other person; and such attachment shall operate on the tolls thereafter to be received, which may [be] collected by a person, specially appointed by the court, for the use of the plaintiff recovering such judgment, until such judgment shall be satisfied; and the court may make such further or other order for enforcing the payment of such judgment as may be consistent with the practice and powers of such court, as a court of law or equity; and that the shares in said company shall be deemed personal, and not real property, and transferable in such manner as the company shall direct; and that the shares held by an individual shall be liable to be attached, or taken by fieri facias, to satisfy the debts due from such individual in like manner as other personal property may be.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the amount of each share shall be paid by instalments of ten dollars at such time as the said company shall direct; and in case, any instalment or instalments shall not be paid at the time appointed by the said company, or within ten days thereafter, the same may be recovered, in the name of the said company, by warrant from a justice of the peace, if the amount due shall not exceed twenty dollars, and if the sum so due shall exceed twenty dollars the same may be recovered by motion, in the name of the said company, on ten days's notice, in any court of record in the county or district, where the debtor shall be found; and in all such warrants and motions, the certificate of the clerk of the said company, authenticated by the president, under the common seal of the said company shall be conclusive evidence of the defendant's being a member of the company, and prima facie evidence of the amount due on the shares held by such defendant. And if such instalment or instalments be not paid within sixty days, after the time limited for the payment of the same, and advertised for four weeks successively, in one or more gazettes, published in Washington, Alexandria, or Georgetown, the president and directors of the said company may proceed to forfeit, for the use of the company, the share or shares of the person or persons so failing to pay.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the said company be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to erect and beild, or to cause to be erected and built, over the river Potomac, between the termination of Maryland avenue and Alexander's island, a good and sufficient bridge, at least thirty six feet wide, of sound and suitable materials, and in all respects adequate for the passage of travellers, horses, cattle and carriages, with a secure railing on each side at least four feet high; of which width six feet on one side shall be appropriated to the purpose of a way for foot passengers, and shall be seperated from the carriage way by a good and sufficient railing at least four feet high.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the said company shall cause to be built and kept and maintained in good repair, a convenient and sufficient draw or passage way, at least thirty-five feet wide, in the said bridge, over the main channel of the river, for the passing and repassing of vessels, by day and night; and shall also cause to be built, and to be kept and maintained in good repair, a well constructed and substantial wharf, erected on piles on each side of the said bridge, and adjoining or near to the said draw, in every respect sufficient for ships and other vessels to lie at securely; and all ships, waiting for a passage through the said draw, may lie at such wharves, free of charge, until a suitable opportunity offers of passing through the said draw; and the said company shall, at their own cost, and without toll, cause the said draw or passage way, to be hoisted or removed, without delay, for the passage of all ships and vessels with masts, that are unable to pass under the same; and if through the unskilfulness or negligence of the person or persons employed by the said company, to hoist or remove the said draw, any ship or vessel shall be unjustly or unreasonably hindered or delayed, or shall be damaged in her hull, spars or rigging, in passing the said draw, the said company shall be liable to the master or the owner of owners of such ship or vessel, for damages at the rate of six cents per ton of such ships or vessel, for each and every hour such ship or vessel shall be hindered or delayed, and for all damages in her hull, spars and rigging, as aforesaid, to be ascertained and recovered in a special action on the case, in any court of competent jurisdiction; and the said company shall constantly keep the said bridge furnished with twenty good lamps, to be well supplied with oil, and lighted in due season, four of which lamps shall be kept at the said draw, and be kept burning through the night, and the others shall be kept burning till the hour of twelve at night, under the penalty of five dollars for each offence, to be recovered by warrant before any justice of the peace, having jurisdiction, by such person or persons as shall sue for the same. And it shall be lawful for the said company, to cause each leaf of the said draw to be made of the width of twenty feet instead of thirty-six feet, the width of the said bridge; and if at any time hereafter the channel under the said principal draw of thirty five feet shall change and shift to and under any other part of said bridge, then it shall be the duty of said company at all times to remove the former and keep a good and sufficient draw of thirty five feet in width over the main and principal channel wherever the same shall pass under the said bridge; provided that the same shall appear necessary on a survey to be made by three commissoners to be appointed for that purpose by the President of the United States.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That the said company shall, in like manner cause a draw or passage way, at least fifteen feet wide, to be made in the said bridge, across the other channel of the said river, near the eastern shore, commonly called the Maryland channel, subject to all the restrictions, penalties and provisions contained in the last preceding section, for keeping and maintaining the draw or passage way over the main channel of the said river, except so far as respects the building of wharfs on each side thereof: *Provided,* The same shall appear necessary on a view and survey thereof, by three commissioners to be appointed for that purpose by the President of the United States.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That as soon as the said bridge and wharfs shall be erected and built, and furnished and completed, as required by this act, the said company shall be entitled to demand and receive, by their proper agents, servants, or officers, tolls at the following rates, viz. For each foot passenger six cents and a quarter; for each person and horse, eighteen cents and three quarters of a cent; for each chaise, sulky or riding chair, thirty seven cents and a half; for each coach, coachee, stage-waggon, chariot, phaeton or curricle, or other riding carriage, one hundred cents, and the further sum of twelve cents and a half for each horse, more than two, by which such coach, coachee, chariot, phaeton or curricle, shall be drawn; for each sled or sleigh, thirty seven and a half cents, and the further sum of twelve and a half cents for each horse or other beast, more than two, by which such sled or sleigh shall be drawn; for each four wheeled waggon, cart, or other four-wheeled carriage of burthen, thirty seven cents and a half, & the further sum of twelve cents & a half, for each horse or other beast, more than two, by which the same shall be drawn; for each two-wheeled cart, dray, or other two-wheeled carriage of burthen eighteen cents and three quarts, and the further sum of twelve cents and a half for each horse or other beast, more than one, by which the same shall be drawn, for each sheep or swine, three cents; for horses and neat cattle, other than those in teems, drawing sleds, sleighs, or carriages, or those with riders, six cents and a quarter each, and one person only to each team or drove, shall be allowed to pass free of toll: *Provided,* That no toll shall be exacted at said bridge, for the passage of any waggon or carriage, laden with the property of the United States, or for the drivers thereof; or for the passage of any troops of the United States, or the militia of any state, or the district of Columbia, marching in a body, or any cannon or military equipments belonging to the United States; and it shall be the duty of the said company, to keep posted up in some conspicuous place on the said bridge, where the toll is collected, a printed list of the rates of toll allowed by this act; and for every day the same shall be neglected they shall forfeit and pay one dollar, to be recovered by warrant, by any person who shall sue for the same: *Provided also,* That if the number of nineteen hundred shares shall not be subcribed within one year from the time of opening subscription books by the commissioners, as herein before directed, or if the said bridge and wharfs be not erected and built, and furnished and completed, as required by this act, within five years, from and after the first day of October next, or if it should remain at any time thereafter, so out of repair for two years, as to be unsafe for travelling; then and in that case, all the powers, authority, privileges, emoluments, and immunities whatsoever, by this act granted to the said company, shall cease and determine, and become absolutely forfeited.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the said corporation, as long as they shall be entitled to receive toll at the said bridge, to keep the same in good repair; and if in neglect of their said duty, the said corporation shall at any time, suffer the said bridge to be out of repair, so as to be unsafe or inconvenient for passengers, the said corporation shall be liable to be presented for such neglect, before any court of competent jurisdiction, and upon conviction thereof, to pay to the United States, a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court, and shall also be responsible for all damages which may be sustained by any person or persons, in consequence of such want of repair, to be recovered in an action or actions of trespass on the case, in any court competent to try the same.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the toll to be taken at the said bridge shall be receivable by the said corporation, for and during the term of sixty years to commence from the day when the said bridge shall be opened for passengers; after which time the said bridge shall be the property of the United States, and the said corporation be dissolved.

J. B. VARNUM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
GEO: CLINTON,
Vice president of the United States, and president of the Senate.

FEBRUARY 5, 1808.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT.

Making an appropriation to supply a deficiency in an appropriation for the support of government during the present year, and making an appropriation for defraying the expences incident to the valuation of houses and lands, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That to make good a deficiency in the appropriation for the contingent expences of both Houses of Congress, authorized by the act of the tenth of February last, the further sum of seven thousand dollars be, and the same hereby is oppropriated.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That a sum not exceeding five thousand four hundred and one dollars and twenty-seven cents, the balance of a former appropriation to that amount, for that object having been carried to the credit of the surplus fund, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby appropriated, for defraying the further expences incident to the valuation of houses and lands, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States.

J. B. VARNUM, *Speaker of the House of Representatives,*
S. SMITH,
President of the Senate, pro-tempore.

APRIL 23, 1808.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

Notice is hereby given,

THAT I intend to petition to the judges of Dorchester county court, or some one of them, for the benefit of an act of assembly, passed at November session, 1805, entitled, "an act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors," and of the several supplements thereto, to release me from debts which I am unable to pay.

JOHN COOKE STEWART.
Dorchester county, June 21, 1808. 8

Notice is hereby given,

TO all whom it may concern, that the subscriber intends to present a petition to Queen-Anns's county court, at the next October term, for the benefit of the act of assembly, entitled, "an act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, and of the several acts supplementary thereto.

JAMES MURRAY.
Centreville, June 21, 1808. 3

Notice.

THE subscriber hereby gives notice, that he intends to make application to Queen-Ann's county court, at their next October term thereof, or to some one of the judges of the said court, after two months from this date, for the benefit of an act of assembly passed at November session, eighteen hundred and five, entitled, "an act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors," and of the supplements thereto.

JOHN R. GILES.
May 24, 1808. 8

Twenty dollars reward.

RAN away on the 7th inst. two slaves belonging to the subscriber, viz. negro *Jesse*, about 18 years of age five and an half feet high, or thereabouts; squints with one eye; had on and took with him when he ran off, two pair of coarse linen trowsers, an old hat, and other apparel not recollected. Also, *Milkey*, a mulatto girl, about 16 years old, tolerably dark coloured, stout made, and has lost one of her upper fore teeth. The clothes taken with her were, a dark spotted cotton habit, and white handkerchief, which she usually wears round her head, with others not necessary to be described.

The above runaways are brother and sister, and they will, it is probable, travel together. Any persons who will apprehend and bring them home to the subscriber, or secure them in any jail, so that she may get them again, will receive a reward of Ten Dollars for each of them, with reasonable travelling expences if brought home.

ANN RIDDELL.
Vienna, Dorchester county, June 14, 1808. 3

RUN away from the subscriber, on Saturday the 21st instant, a negro man named GEORGE, six feet two or three inches high, his complexion very black, has a scar of a burn on one of his cheeks, (and I believe the left one)—he is a little bow-legged: Had on when he went away, a pair of tow linen trowsers, a blue short jacket of nankeens, and a tow linen shirt. Whoever takes up said negro and secures him in any jail, so that the subscriber may get him again, shall be entitled to a reward of forty dollars, if taken out of the state; ten dollars if taken in Somerset or Worcester counties, and fifteen dollars if taken in any adjacent county in the state, and twenty dollars if taken sixty miles from the subscriber's plantation.

JAMES DAVIS.
Somerset county, Maryland, June 7, 1808. 4

Take notice.

WAS committed to the jail of Frederick connty, Maryland, on the 20th day of April last, as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself *John Roman*; he appears to be about 29 years of age, about five feet five or six inches high, well made, very black, and has a smiling countenance: His clething when committed, was as follows—a blue cloth coat and pantaloons, a striped cotton waistcoat, an oznaburg shirt, a pair of black woollen stockings, and one pair of shoes, all of which are pretty well worn; by trade, as he says, a blacksmith and gunsmith; he has a small scar between his eyes, and says he belongs to Bennett Taylor, of Jefferson county, Virginia, within six miles of Charlestown, on the water of Bullskin, near the place that empties into the Shanandoah. The owner is requested to come and release him, otherwise he will be sold for his prison fees, agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, jun.
Sheriff of Frederick county, Md.
May 13—17, 1808. 8