

C H A P.  
XXVI.

the said justices shall approve, in double the sum to be collected, with condition, "that if the above bound shall well and faithfully execute his office, and the several duties required of him by law, and shall well and truly account for and pay to the justices of county court, or their order, the several sums of money which he shall receive or be answerable for by law, at such time as the law shall direct, then the obligation to be void."

Clerk to keep  
an account of  
assessment, &c.

I. And be it enacted, That the clerk of each county shall, and he is hereby directed to keep a fair and accurate account of such assessment or rate, and how disposed of by his county court, in a book to be kept for that purpose alone, and shall annually, within one month after such assessment (under the penalty of fifty pounds current money) transmit a copy thereof to the governor and council, for their information, of the gross amount of the property in such county, and the amount of the tax for the county expences; and such clerk shall also, within ten days after such assessment (under the penalty of two hundred pounds current money) deliver a fair copy thereof to the collector or collectors appointed as aforesaid, and such collector or collectors shall, and he or they are hereby authorized and required, after the first day of October annually, to collect the same rate in the same manner the public assessment in such county shall by law be directed to be collected, and shall render account thereof and pay the same to the order of their respective county courts, on or before the first day of November annually, and in case of refusal or neglect to account or make payment, the said justices may cause the bond of the collector, failing in his duty to be put in suit, and the said justices, on taking bond, shall cause the same to be proved by the witnesses thereto, and their clerk shall record the same, with the probate, and an attested copy of the said bond and probate from the said record shall be as good evidence in law to maintain an action of debt for the breach of the condition thereof, as if the said bond was actually produced and proved in court, and on suit the justices may order a copy of such bond to be filed in the general court, and thereupon *scire facias* shall issue against such collector and his securities, in the same manner as by law is directed in the case of bonds to the loan-office, and similar proceedings shall be had to compel payment of the money due, with an interest of ten per cent. from the day appointed for payment; and every person appointed collector shall, before he acts as such, subscribe a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and take and subscribe the oath (or if a quaker, menonist, or dunker, the affirmation) of fidelity to this state, directed by the constitution and form of government, and the oath (or affirmation) prescribed by the act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism, unless he had before made the said declaration and taken the said oaths or affirmations.

Provido.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said justices to impose any assessment or rate for the making and finishing necessary repairs to the court-house of their county, exceeding one hundred pounds real money in any one year; or for making and finishing necessary repairs to their county prison, exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds like money in any one year; or for the full and complete repair of any one bridge in their county, exceeding fifty pounds like money in any one year; or for the erecting and building of