

CHAPTER MCXLVII.

AN ACT FOR VESTING IN THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, HELD AT PHILADELPHIA FOR THE PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, A CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND, BEING PART OF THE STATE HOUSE SQUARE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it is expedient and proper to give all due encouragement to societies established for the purpose of advancing the arts and sciences and promulgating useful knowledge:

And whereas it hath been represented to us by the incorporated Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia, that for the better answering the purpose of their institution it is necessary that they should have a public hall, library and other accommodations:

And whereas the said society have prayed us to grant to them and their successors a lot of ground suitable and convenient for erecting a hall and other buildings necessary for their accommodation;

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That a certain lot or piece of ground, being part of the state house square situated on the west side of Fifth street, and beginning ninety-six feet southward from Chestnut street and thence extending along Fifth street aforesaid, seventy feet south towards Walnut street, thence westwardly on the State House square fifty feet, thence northward in a line parallel to Fifth street seventy feet, and thence eastward fifty feet to the place of beginning, shall and hereby is given and granted to and vested in the American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia for promoting useful knowledge, to have and to hold the said lot of ground to the said American Philosophical Society and their successors forever; for the pur-

pose of erecting thereon a hall, library and such other buildings or apartments as the said society may think necessary for their proper accommodation.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) Provided always and it is the intention and meaning of this act that the said lot of ground shall not be sold, leased or transferred by the said Philosophical Society or their successors, to any other person or persons or bodies corporate, nor shall the same be applied by the said society to any other use or purpose but that of erecting buildings for the accommodation of the said society as herein before specified.

Passed March 28, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 484. See the Act of Assembly passed March 17, 1786, Chapter 1211.

CHAPTER MCXLVIII.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS NOW CONFINED IN THE SEVERAL GAOLS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas application hath been made by petition to this house from a considerable number of prisoners confined in divers gaols within this state for debt, to be discharged from further confinement:

And whereas many through misfortune and unavoidable losses are become wholly unable to discharge the several debts due to the commonwealth as well as to individuals:

And whereas the twenty-eighth section of the constitution provides, "That the person of a debtor, where there is not strong presumption of fraud shall not be continued in prison after delivering up bona fide all his estate real and personal for the use of his creditors," therefore in conformity to the aforesaid section of the constitution:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by