

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

the authority of the same, That any three justices of county courts of common pleas in and for the city of Philadelphia and the several counties within this commonwealth, be and they are hereby authorized and required upon the respective petition of the several debtors now confined within the gaols under their jurisdiction whether the amount of their debts respectively to any one person be more or less than one hundred and fifty pounds, to open a special court of common pleas at such time as they think proper and to grant unto them and each of them the like relief as by the laws now in force within this state is provided for insolvent debtors who are confined under executions for debt not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds to any one person.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the same courts upon the several applications to them to be made as aforesaid shall thereupon proceed in all things (except as herein after excepted) conformably to the purport, true intent and meaning of the several acts of assembly now in force in this commonwealth for the relief of insolvent debtors not owing more than one hundred and fifty pounds to any one person as aforesaid, and that their several and respective discharges shall be equally good and binding to all intents and purposes.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any creditor or creditors of the respective prisoners now confined in the several gaols within this commonwealth or either of them do not or shall not reside within this state at the time of such proceedings before the said court, that the service of notice of applications to the said court or of any rule or order of the same court in the premises on the known agent or attorney of such creditor or creditors within this state shall be equally valid and effectual as if the same notice or notices were served on such creditor or creditors in person.

(Section V, P. L.) Provided also, That none of the said prisoners now confined as aforesaid shall be debarred or excluded the benefit hereby intended to be granted unto them and each of them by reason that they or either of them have not resided

within this state for the space of two years next before his, her or their imprisonment.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further provided and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That after either or all of the said prisoners confined as aforesaid shall have surrendered all his, her or their property both real and personal for the use of his, her or their respective creditors, and adducing to the court sufficient proof that no fraud or embezzlement hath been committed by them or either of them, it shall not be lawful for the court so discharging him, her or them, to remand to gaol him, her or them although the creditor or creditors of him, her or them so discharged shall desire the same, and offer to give security to pay such weekly allowance to the said debtor or debtors or any of them as the respective courts shall assess.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the same courts shall and may grant relief unto all persons confined as aforesaid, for debt (other than for fines and forfeitures for crimes and misdemeanors) due to the commonwealth or for rent due from them to their respective lessors or landlords in the same manner and form as aforesaid, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed March 30, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 489. See the Act of Assembly passed April 14, 1729-30, Chapter 315.

CHAPTER MCXLIX.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF SUCH PERSONS AS HAVE DEBTS DUE TO THEM FROM THE ESTATES OF PERSONS ATTAINTED OF TREASON AND CONFISCATED IN THE LATE WAR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by an act of the Legislature of this commonwealth passed the first day of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, it was directed that certificates should be issued for balances due by the state to the citizens thereof upon accounts settled by the comptroller-general: