

pay accounts, between the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, and the time of their derangement as aforesaid, settled in the same manner, and like certificates granted to them, as the officers of the state navy who continued in the service have received or are entitled to by law, and the comptroller-general is hereby directed and authorized to proceed accordingly.

Passed April 8, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 541.

CHAPTER MCLXVII.

AN ACT FOR ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF A REGISTER OF ALL GERMAN PASSENGERS, WHO SHALL ARRIVE AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, AND OF ALL INDENTURES BY WHICH ANY OF THEM SHALL BE BOUND SERVANTS FOR THEIR FREIGHT, AND OF THE ASSIGNMENTS OF SUCH SERVANTS IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, by several acts of assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, all masters of vessels, merchants and others, importing by land or by water any men or women passengers or servants are obliged within the space of twenty-four hours after their arrival, to make entry and give or cause to be given upon oath or affirmation to the officer for that purpose appointed, a true and just account of all the names of the servants and passengers so imported, which account the said officer should duly enter with the mayor of the city of Philadelphia, if such passengers were designed to be landed at Philadelphia. And that the said mayor should examine into the character and circumstances of such servants and passengers, and grant certificates containing the names of all the servants or passengers which he should judge fit to be landed; and that every indenture, whereby any such German passenger should be bound to serve his or her master or mistress, should be acknowledged before the mayor or recorder of the city of Philadelphia, and he keep and exact record thereof clearly expressing the province, county, city, borough or township wherein such

master or mistress resides, and that the said mayor and recorder in the said city should in like manner keep a record of the assignments of servants, therein expressing the places of the assignee's abode:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas since the change of the government of Pennsylvania, the offices of mayor and recorder of the city of Philadelphia have been vacated, and the justices of the peace of the said city collectively, or any three of them by an act of this commonwealth, are empowered to do and perform certain special matters and things, formerly directed to be done and performed by the mayor, recorder and aldermen of the said city; but no provision has been hitherto made by law for registering the names of the German passengers, who shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia, and taking the acknowledgment of the indentures of such passengers as shall or may bind themselves servants for their freight: And whereas reason and justice require that the officer who is to execute so important a trust for foreigners, should be fully acquainted with their language, and able to converse with them.

[Section I.] (Section III, 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 an office for registering all German passengers who at any time hereafter shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia, and the execution of all such indentures by which any of such passengers shall bind him or herself servants for their freight, shall be and is hereby established; and that a person understanding and speaking the English and German languages with ease and propriety, an inhabitant of the said city, in confidence and reputation with the public for his integrity and discretion, shall from time to time be appointed and commissioned by the president or vice-president in council, and being duly sworn to the true and faithful performance of the several duties required of him by this act, before the chief justice or any one of the judges of the supreme court of this state shall be the register of German passengers arriving in the port of Philadelphia, and by virtue of his said office, shall use and exercise all the powers and authorities of a justice of

the peace for the city and county of Philadelphia, as far as the same shall be required for the support and efficacy of his office and the laws respecting the importation of German passengers and binding them out servants and not otherwise; and that the health officer having received from the captain of any vessel importing German passengers the list of their names, shall with his German interpreter review all the said passengers on board, men, women and children, and inquire whether any of them are superannuated, impotent or otherwise likely to become chargeable to the public, and make report thereof in writing to the said register, who if he approves thereof, shall enter the same in a book for that purpose to be kept by him, and transmit the original thereof to the office of the secretary of the supreme executive council and give his order and license to land such of them as are returned sound, without any defect in mind and body.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all indentures of such German passengers, men, women and children, by which they shall be bound to serve, and all assignments of servants made within the said city shall be made and acknowledged before the said register or his lawful deputy and by him certified, and the full contents thereof entered and registered in the same manner, and to the same effect, as servants indentures and assignments of servants were heretofore by law made and acknowledged before the mayor of the city of Philadelphia, and by him registered; and that all persons whom it may concern shall be entitled to have a copy or abstract of such register.

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the fees of the said register shall be the same as were usually taken by the mayors of the said city, until it shall be otherwise provided by act of assembly.