

CHAPTER MDCCXXVII.

AN ACT TO EXONERATE THE LATE PROPRIETARIES FROM THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE TREASURER TO PAY THEM SUCH MONEYS AS HAVE BEEN RETAINED BY HIM ON ACCOUNT THEREOF.

Whereas John Penn, the younger, and John Penn, late proprietaries of Pennsylvania, in pursuance of an act passed the ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, entitled, "An act making provision for the discharge of the legislative grants to the late proprietaries of Pennsylvania,"¹ did, by their agent duly empowered, apply to the governor of the commonwealth, for the payment of the balance of their demand, agreeably to the directions of the said act. And whereas the comptroller-general exhibited a claim, on behalf of the commonwealth, for certain arrears of taxes, which had been assessed and laid on the quit rents formerly belonging to the said proprietaries, and did request the same might be deducted out of the provision so made by the legislature of this commonwealth for the payment of the balance due to the said late proprietaries. Whereupon it was agreed by the agent of the said proprietaries, that the sum of seven thousand two hundred and forty-nine pounds two shillings and ten pence should be deposited by the said agent with the treasurer of this commonwealth, to be detained by him until the justice of the charge so made by the comptroller should be ascertained. And whereas it appears that the legislature, by an act passed on the twenty-seventh day of November, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, entitled, "An act for vesting the estates of the late proprietaries of Pennsylvania in this commonwealth"² divested the said late proprietaries of the said

¹Chapter 1562.

²Chapter 872.

quit-rents, and of all arrearages thereof, and that part of all the taxes aforesaid were assessed and laid on the arrearages, so as aforesaid divested and taken from the said proprietaries.

[Section I.] (Section I. P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the officers of accounts of this commonwealth shall proceed, as directed by an act of assembly entitled "An act to provide for the settlement of public accounts, and for other purposes therein mentioned"³ to the liquidation and adjustment of all the taxes that have been charged to, or may appear in, the respective returns made by the commissioners of the different counties against John Penn, the younger, and John Penn, ascertaining the part thereof which hath been laid on quit-rents arising on their estates as proprietaries, between the years one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and of which they were divested by an act of assembly entitled "An act for vesting the estate of the late proprietaries of Pennsylvania in this commonwealth"⁴ and the said officers of accounts shall lay the same before the governor, as directed in other cases; who shall draw a warrant on the state treasurer in their favor for such sum as they shall have been taxed for the quit-rents, in the period aforesaid, and such further sum as may remain of the sum of seven thousand two hundred and forty-nine pounds, two shillings and ten pence, deposited in the treasury of this commonwealth, after deducting therefrom all taxes due on the said proprietaries' private estate, as also the taxes due on the quit-rents not within the period aforesaid.

Provided always, That if the said John Penn, the younger, and John Penn, or their agent duly authorized, shall not be satisfied with the liquidation and adjustment in the manner aforesaid, they shall be allowed an appeal to the supreme court, in the same manner as directed by an act of assembly entitled "An act to give the benefit of trial by jury to the public officers

of this state, and to other persons who may be proceeded against in a summary manner by the comptroller-general of this state.”⁵

Passed April 3, 1794. Recorded L. B. No. 5, p. 195, &c.

³Passed April 4, 1792. Chapter 1627.

⁴See Ante.

⁵Passed February 18, 1785. Chapter 1133.

CHAPTER MDCCXXVIII.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF ADAM MELCHER.

Whereas Adam Melcher, at a sale of confiscated estates held by George Smith, agent for this commonwealth, did, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, purchase one undivided fourth part of a certain tract of land, in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, said to be forfeited to the state by John Meredith, who was attainted of high treason, the purchase money whereof was afterwards, on the twelfth day of April, in the year aforesaid, paid by the said Adam Melcher to the said George Smith, and by him paid into the treasury of this commonwealth. And whereas no conveyance of the said estate has ever been made, and it appears to the legislature that no valid conveyance can on the part of this commonwealth be made to the said Adam Melcher. Wherefore, justice requires that the said purchase money should be repaid to him, together with lawful interest thereon.

[Section I.] (Section I. P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the governor, and he is hereby authorized and required, to draw his warrant on the treasurer of this commonwealth for the principal sum which the said Adam Melcher may have paid as aforesaid, together with lawful interest on the same, from the said twelfth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and