

[Section XXXII.] (Section XXXII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as often as any doubts shall arise touching this act, the same shall in all courts of law and equity, and elsewhere, be construed and taken most favorably for the said corporation.

Passed April 18, 1794. Recorded L. B. No. 5, p. 210, &c.

Supplement passed March 27, 1795, Chapter 1814. See Act of March 3, 1800, Chapter 2117, as to enrolling of public ordinances.

CHAPTER MDCCXLIII.

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE DAMAGES WHICH MAY HAPPEN BY FIRING OF WOODS.

Whereas it hath been represented that numbers of persons are in the custom of setting fire to the woods for different purposes, thereby producing an extensive conflagration injurious to the soil, destructive to the timber and the infant improvements within this state. Therefore:

[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 whosoever shall at any time hereafter wilfully set on fire, or cause to be set on fire, any woods, lands, or marshes whatsoever within this commonwealth, so as thereby to occasion any loss, damage or injury to any other person or persons, every such person or persons so offending and being thereof legally convicted by the oath or affirmation of one or more witnesses in the county court of quarter sessions where the offence is committed, shall pay a fine not exceeding fifty dollars and not less than twenty dollars; the one-half of such fine to be paid to the informer and the other half to the overseer of the poor of the township where the offence is committed for the use of the poor in the said township.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That where any person or persons so

offending shall and are hereby declared liable to make satisfaction for the same, in any action or actions on the case, to be brought by the party or parties grieved in the court of common pleas of the county in which the offence was committed.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That where any party is injured and shall not demand above fifty dollars for his loss or damage, it shall and may be lawful to and for such person or persons to apply to any justice of the peace of the county where the offence is committed, who is hereby empowered and required, by warrant under his hand and seal, to cause the party offending to be brought before him or some other justice of the peace of the same county. And if upon examination it shall appear to the justice by the testimony of one or more credible witness or witnesses that the defendant is guilty of the charge exhibited against him, then the said justice shall issue his warrant to two or more freeholders of the neighborhood thereby commanding them in the presence of the defendant, if he will be present, to view the place or thing damaged, or inquire into the loss sustained by the plaintiff, and to certify to the said justice upon their oath or affirmation what damage in their judgement the plaintiff hath sustained by occasion of the premises, and that upon the return of such certificate to the said justice he is hereby empowered to grant execution for the recovery of the said damages, together with costs of prosecution as is usual in the recovery of debts under ten pounds.

Provided always, That if any person or persons shall apprehend him, her or themselves aggrieved by the determination of any justice of the peace in consequence of this act, he, she or they shall have a right to appeal from the judgment of the said justice to the next court of common pleas of the proper county.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That where any offense shall be committed against the tenor of this act by any white or black servant, without the direction of his, her or their master or mistress respectively, and such offenders be thereof duly con-

victed by the oath or affirmation of one credible witness, such offender or offenders, unless his or her master or mistress will pay the damages sustained with costs of suit, shall be committed to the gaol of the county, there to be kept to hard labor for three months, and from thence until the cost of prosecution be paid.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the act entitled, "An act to prevent the damages that may happen by firing of woods,"¹ passed the twenty-ninth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, is hereby repealed and made null and void.

Passed April 18, 1794. Recorded L. B. No. 5, p. 221, &c. See Acts of March 29, 1894; April 1, 1840, sec. 1, P. L. 217; March 31, 1860; June 11, 1879, sec. 1, P. L. 162. Sections 1 and 4 repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 31, 1860, Chapter 276, P. L. 1860, p. 452. .

¹Chapter 338.

CHAPTER MDCCXLIV.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF THE LATE CONVENTION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Whereas certain demands, arising from transacting the business of the convention and general assembly remain unpaid
Therefore:

[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 governor of this commonwealth be and he is hereby empowered to draw warrants on the state treasurer in favor of the persons following, for the several sums of money annexed to their respective names, to wit: to Michael Billmeyer, for printing the journals of the late house of representatives in the German language, one hundred and seventy-eight dollars; to Francis Shallus, for transcribing the