

ment declare otherwise, any law, usage or custom of this commonwealth to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding. Provided always nevertheless, That nothing in this section contained, shall deprive the widow of her choice, either to dower, or to the estate so devised or bequeathed.

[Section XI.] (Section XI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all the bonds, directed by law to be taken by the registers for the probate of wills and granting letters of administration, shall be, hereafter, in the name of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that the second section of the act to which this is supplementary, be and the same is hereby repealed and made null and void.

Passed April 4, 1797. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p. 190, etc.

CHAPTER MCML.

AN ACT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN MONEYS RECOVERED UNDER THE [LATE] BANKRUPT LAWS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

Whereas, in the proceedings under sundry commissions of bankrupt, divers sums of money have been recovered, for the distribution of which, to persons justly entitled thereto, it appears necessary that provision should be made by law:

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That a majority of the persons named and authorized to act as commissioners, in the commission of bankrupt issued, respectively, against Joseph Dean, Thomas Barclay, Jonathan Williams, Junior, and Robert McClenachan, shall have full power to demand and receive, from the assignee or assignees acting under the commissions,

all the moneys recovered by them, or either of them, for debts due to the co-partnership of Dean and Purviance, Barclay and Mitchell, Williams, Moore and Co. and Thompson and McClenachan, and the same to divide pro rata to and amongst the creditors of the said Dean and Purviance, Barclay and Mitchell, Williams, Moore and Co. and Thompson and McClenachan, who shall come in and prove their debts within the time hereinafter specified.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the assignee or assignees, acting in either of the cases before recited, and they are hereby respectively required, to pay over the moneys recovered by them, or either of them, for debts due to the co-partnerships aforesaid, to the said commissioners, whose discharge shall be a sufficient protection against all and every person whatsoever.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners shall give public notice, in at least two of the daily newspapers published in the city of Philadelphia, of the time and place of their meetings, and calling upon the creditors to prove their debts, which proofs shall be in the same forms as were required by the late bankrupt laws, and, at the expiration of six months from the time of the first publication, proceed to divide all the moneys that may have come into their hands amongst the creditors who, within that period, shall have proved their debts. Provided always, That nothing in this act contained, shall be deemed or taken to invalidate or affect any legal proceeding heretofore instituted, and now pending, for the recovery of any such moneys for the benefit of any creditor or creditors of any of the said co-partnerships.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners and assignees shall, for their care and trouble, have and receive the like compensation as was allowed by the late bankrupt laws for similar services.