

warrant on the treasury of the county of Bedford, in favor of the commissioners of the said county, for the sum of four thousand dollars, which sum the said treasurer shall pay out of any moneys he may receive in satisfaction of debts due by the said county to the loan office of one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, and out of any moneys he may receive for or on account of arrearages of taxes due by the said county to this commonwealth, and for the aforesaid sum of four thousand dollars, or so much thereof as he may actually pay to the said commissioners in virtue of this act, the said treasurer shall have credit on the books of the comptroller-general of this commonwealth, on his producing the receipts of the said commissioners.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners of the county of Bedford, or a majority of them, are hereby required to lay out or apply so much of the money herein granted, as may be expedient in completing said bridges and causeways, and the remainder in repairing the state road through the said county, and their accounts, as in other cases, shall be subject to examination, adjustment and settlement by the auditors appointed by the court of said county.

Passed March 28, 1799. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p. 367, etc.

CHAPTER MMXLI.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND THEIR SUCCESSORS IN OFFICE, TO RAISE MONEY, BY TOLL, FOR COMPLETING A BRIDGE OVER THE PERKIOMEN CREEK, ON THE ROAD LEADING FROM PHILADELPHIA TO READING.

Whereas it hath been represented to the legislature, that the means heretofore provided for the erection of a stone arch bridge over the Perkiomen creek, in the county of Montgomery, on the road leading from Philadelphia to the borough of Reading, have proved insufficient for the completion of the said bridge, and it is thought an object of public concern that the

same should be speedily finished, and that adequate provision should be made for that purpose. Therefore:

[Section L.] (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 be lawful for the commissioners of the county of Montgomery, for the time being, and their successors in office, to demand and receive, from travelers and others, toll for passing through the gate or gates, hereinafter authorized to be erected across the said road, near the bridge over the Perkiomen creek, in the said county of Montgomery, on the road leading from Philadelphia to the borough of Reading, and to stop any person from passing through the said gate or gates, until they shall respectively have paid the same, according to the following rates, viz; For every score of sheep, ten cents; for every score of hogs, ten cents; for every score of cattle, twenty cents; and so in proportion for any greater or lesser number; for every foot passenger, two cents; for every horse or mule, four cents; for every sulkey, chair or chaise, with one horse and two wheels, twelve and an half cents; for every chariot, coach, phaeton or chaise, with two horses and four wheels, twenty-five cents; for either of the last mentioned carriages, with four horses, thirty-seven and an half cents; for every carriage of pleasure, under whatever name, the like sum, according to the number of wheels and of the horses drawing the same; for every stage coach with two horses, twenty cents; for every such wagon with four horses, thirty cents; for every sleigh, six and a quarter cents for every horse drawing the same; for every sled, five cents for every horse drawing the same; and for every wagon or cart, six and a quarter cents for every horse drawing the same; and in all cases, two oxen shall be estimated equal to one horse. Provided always nevertheless, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prevent the said commissioners from contracting with any person or persons, desirous of using the said bridge, for an annual sum, in lieu of the toll hereinbefore mentioned.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That to facilitate the collection of the said toll, it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners to erect one or more gates, near or contiguous to the said bridge, and to alter or remove the same, as occasion may require; and also to appoint such and so many persons as they may think proper to attend the said gate or gates, and receive toll from travelers and others, according to the rates aforesaid.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any toll-gatherer shall demand or receive any other or greater rates or prices for passage over the said bridge, than are hereinbefore specified, the person so offending shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars, one moiety to the commissioners aforesaid, towards defraying the expenses of the said bridge, and the other moiety to the party complaining, or who may sue for the same, to be recovered before any justice of the peace of the said county, who is hereby empowered, on information made to him, on oath or affirmation, of any such offence, to issue his summons or warrant to any constable of the county, commanding him to bring, or cause every person against whom such information shall be made to come before him; and on due proof of such offence, to convict such person thereof, and to issue his warrant to any such constable to levy the said sum of money on the goods and chattels of the offender, by distress and sale thereof; and in case no goods or chattels of the offender can be found, on which to make such distress, then to take his body and commit him to the gaol of the aforesaid county, until the said sum be paid. Provided always, That any person so convicted, who shall find himself aggrieved thereby, may, within ten days after such conviction, appeal to the next court of quarter sessions of the county, which appeal, on giving security before the said justice, by one or more sufficient sureties, in a penalty not less than double the sum sued for, to pay all costs, shall be allowed; and if the conviction so made by the said justice shall be confirmed, the said justice shall proceed to levy the said forfeiture, in the

manner hereinbefore directed. And provided also, That no suit or action shall be brought after twenty days from the time when the offence was committed.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners shall have power to make such allowance to the persons employed in the collection of toll, or rendering other services in pursuance of this act, as they may deem reasonable; and each commissioner shall have and receive for his personal services one dollar and sixty-seven cents *per* day, for every day during which he shall be actually engaged in discharging the duties enjoined by this act, all which shall be paid out of the receipts of toll arising from the said bridge.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, if they shall deem the same expedient, to borrow money towards completing the aforesaid bridge, paying therefor an interest not exceeding the rate prescribed by law, and by suitable instruments of writing, which they are hereby authorized to execute, to pledge the tolls of the said bridge for the repayment thereof. Provided nevertheless, That the collection and receipt of the said toll shall continue to be transacted by the said commissioners.

[Section VI.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no such tolls shall be demanded, after the expiration of five years from and after the fixing of said gates across said road, and from and after the expiration of said term, the passage over said bridge shall be free to all persons crossing the same, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Section VII.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to keep and preserve a just and true account of all their receipts and expenditures of the moneys, which shall come to their hands by virtue of the provisions of this act, and they shall annually, at the time appointed by law for the settlement of their accounts as county commissioners, furnish a statement of their said receipts and expenditures, ac-

accompanied by proper vouchers, to the persons who shall be appointed to settle their said accounts as county commissioners, who shall in like manner, examine, settle and adjust the same; and it shall be the duty of the persons so appointed to settle the said accounts to lay a copy of the same, annually, before the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the county aforesaid; and whenever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the said court, that a sum has been raised, which, in addition to the means heretofore provided, is sufficient to defray the expenses of completing the said bridge, and paying the charges which shall have been incurred in the collection of toll before the aforesaid period, the said court shall make an order declaring the said bridge to be free, and no toll whatever shall thereafter be received for passing over the said bridge.

Passed March 28, 1799. Recorded L. B. No. 6, p. 336, etc.

CHAPTER MMXLII.

AN ACT FOR INCORPORATING THE TRUSTEES OF THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS, CONSTITUTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas the ministers and elders forming the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States of America, consisting of citizens of the state of Pennsylvania, and of others of the United States of America aforesaid, have, by their petition, represented that by donations, bequests or otherwise, of charitably disposed persons, they are possessed of moneys for benevolent and pious purposes, and the said ministers and elders have reason to expect farther contributions for similar uses, but from the scattered situation of the said ministers and elders, and other causes, the said ministers and elders find it extremely difficult to manage the said funds, in the way best calculated to answer the intention of the donors. Therefore: