

sons convicted of adultery, is given and declared to be to the use of the Governor, and the other moiety to the use of the poor; but inasmuch as it is not ascertained, by the said act, to the use of what particular poor the same moiety is intended to be applied, doubts have arisen, and the Sheriffs of several counties within this province have detained in their hands, and still detain the said moiety, for want of proper persons to discharge them, upon payment thereof: For the removal of which doubts, *Be it enacted*, That one moiety of all fines, imposed on persons convicted of adultery in and by virtue of the said act, and received by any Sheriff within this province, before the publication hereof, shall be paid to the Overseers of the poor of the city, district or township, where the offender did reside at the time of committing the fact, to the use of the poor thereof; and that one moiety of all fines, which shall hereafter be imposed on any person convicted of the said offence, by virtue of the said act, shall be to and for the use of the Governor of this province, for the time being,\* and the other moiety to the Overseers of the poor of the city, district or township, where the offender shall reside at the time of committing the fact, to the use of the poor thereof, any thing in the said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

1772.

Manner of appropriating fines for adultery.

\* Now for the use of the commonwealth.

Passed 21st March, 1772.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 521.

#### CHAPTER DCLXV.

*An ACT to enable the owners of the lands, called The Pigeon Swamp, in the township of Bristol, in the county of Bucks, to dig, maintain, and keep open, a ditch through the said swamp, and to raise money to defray the expense thereof.*

Passed 21st March, 1772.—Private Act.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 512.

#### CHAPTER DCLXIX.

*An ACT for prevention of frauds and perjuries.*

FOR prevention of fraudulent practices, perjuries, and subornation of perjuries, *Be it enacted*, That from and after the tenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, all leases, estates, interests of freehold, or term of years, or any uncertain interest, of, in, or out of any messuages, manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments, made or created by livery and seisin only, or by parol, and not put in writing, and signed by the parties so making or creating the same, or their agents, thereunto lawfully authorized by writing, shall have the force and effect of leases or estates at will only, and shall not, either in law or equity, be deemed or taken to have any other or greater force or effect, any consideration for making any such parol leases or estates, or any former law or usage to the contrary, notwithstanding; except, nevertheless, all leases not exceeding the term of three years from the

Parol leases, &c. nor put in writing, and signed by the parties to have the effect of leases at will only, &c.