

1783. said, or be committed to the work-house or prison of the respective county where the offence shall be committed, there to be kept at hard labour for the space of three months, any thing in this law, or any other law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Part of the former law repealed.

SECT. XXIV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That so much of the act, to which this is an addition and supplement, as is altered, supplied or amended by this act, be, and the same is hereby, repealed and made void, any thing contained in any of the said laws, in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed 19th March, 1783.—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 61.

CHAPTER MXII.

An ACT for preventing vexatious prosecutions and suits against such as acted in this state, for the defence of the liberties of America.

SECT. I. WHEREAS divers virtuous citizens of this state, and other good people, well affected to their country, at an early period of the present war with Great Britain for the liberties and independence of the United States of America, have at the risque of their lives and fortunes, acted in conformity to and carried into execution several resolutions, recommendations, votes and orders of Congress, and of the Assemblies, Conventions, Committees, and other public bodies within this state, and also as civil and military officers, and in obedience to them, though perhaps in some cases not sufficiently authorized thereunto, in which proceedings some force and violence, and defect of form, was unavoidable, which in a time of peace and common safety would not have been warrantable; and also since the declaration of independence and the establishment of the present government, by reason of the wars and troubles raised and occasioned by our foreign and domestic enemies, divers like matters and things have been acted and done, all which were necessary and allowable in regard of the exigence of public affairs, and ought to be justified, and the parties concerned therein indemnified; nevertheless, some persons, ill affected to the present happy government, and the safety and welfare of their country, have commenced and prosecuted, and threaten to commence and prosecute, actions and suits against the good citizens, for and by reason of their actings and doings aforesaid: Therefore, for the preventing the troubles and charges which the said virtuous citizens might be put to, by means of such vexatious suits and prosecutions, and for their indemnity in the premises.

Personal actions, suits &c. for any thing done or performed by reason of the premises, hereby made void.

SECT. II. *Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same,* That all personal actions, suits, indictments, informations, and all other prosecutions, whatsoever, for or by reason of any act, matter or thing done or performed by any Assembly, Convention, Committee, or other public body within this state, or in obedience to any ordinance, vote, resolution, recommendation, order or advice of Congress,

or of any of the Assemblies, Conventions, Committees, or other public bodies aforesaid, or of any commanding officer, civil or military, or otherwise, for or by reason of the premises, be, and are hereby, discharged and made void: And if any action or suit, hereby declared to be discharged, hath been or shall be commenced or prosecuted, every person so sued may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence; and if the plaintiff shall become non-suit or forbear further prosecution, or suffer discontinuance, or if a verdict or judgment pass against him, the said defendants shall recover treble costs, for which he shall have the like remedy, as in cases where costs by law are given to defendants; and the said plaintiff or prosecutor shall moreover forfeit and pay the fine of ten pounds, to the use of the county where the said defendant shall be arrested or sued, to be recovered, as aforesaid, in the name of the said defendant.

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SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That this act, and the general sentences and words before mentioned, shall be reputed, taken, expounded and adjudged, in all courts, and elsewhere, most beneficial and available to all and singular the good people, who may be sued for or by reason of any act or thing done or performed as aforesaid.

This act to be expounded most beneficially for those who may be sued.

Passed 21st March, 1783.—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 92.

CHAPTER MXIV.

*An ACT to repeal part of an act of the Assembly of the late province of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act declaring the river Susquehanna, and other streams therein mentioned, public highways, for improving the navigation of the said river and streams, and preserving the fish in the same."**

SECT. I. WHEREAS John Wilt, of the county of Bedford, did, by petition to the late House of Assembly of this commonwealth, set forth, that great benefit and utility would accrue to the majority of the inhabitants of the said county, from erecting a fulling-mill about two miles below the town of Bedford, in said county, on the Ray's-Town branch of the river Juniata, and in consideration thereof prayed that an act might be passed, to permit him, the said John Wilt, to erect a mill as aforesaid.

[* Original act, ante vol. I. p. 324, chap. 627.]

SECT. II. And whereas the said House of Assembly did, on the twenty-third day of November, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, give leave to the said John Wilt to bring in a bill, agreeable to the prayer of his said petition, having first advertised, in the county of Bedford, his intentions so to do: And whereas it appears by the petition of the said John Wilt, and a certificate produced therewith to this House, that he hath complied with the above mentioned order:

SECT. III. *Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same,* That so much of the aforesaid act, entitled "An Act declaring the

Repeal of the act, so far as