

1785. Wardens of the said city, shall submit the plans, whereby the said court-houses shall be erected, to the approbation of the President or Vice-President in Council, in order that their outward forms may be alike and uniform, as aforesaid.]

and City-Hall to be submitted to the Executive.

Passed 8th April, 1785.—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 527.

## CHAPTER MCLVI.

*An ACT for establishing the office of a Register of all German passengers, who shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia, and of all indentures by which any of them shall be bound servants for their freight, and of the assignments of such servants in the city of Philadelphia. (a)*

SECT. I. WHEREAS, by several acts of Assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, all masters of vessels, merchants and others, importing by land or by water, any men or women passengers or servants, are obliged, within the space of twenty-four hours after their arrival, to make entry, and give or cause to be given, upon oath or affirmation, to the officer for that purpose appointed, a true and just account of all the names of the servants and passengers so imported, which account the said officer should duly enter with the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, if such passengers were designed to be landed at Philadelphia: And that the said Mayor should examine into the character and circumstances of such servants and passengers, and grant certificates, containing the names of all the servants or passengers which he should judge fit to be landed: And that every indenture, whereby any such German passenger should be bound to serve his or her master or mistress, should be acknowledged before the Mayor or Recorder of the city of Philadelphia, and he keep an exact record thereof, clearly expressing the province, county, city, borough or township, wherein such master or mistress resides, and that the said Mayor and Recorder in the said city should in like manner keep a record of the assignments of servants, therein expressing the places of the assignees abode:

SECT. II. And whereas, since the change of the government of Pennsylvania, the offices of Mayor and Recorder of the city of Philadelphia have been vacated, and the Justices of the Peace of the said city collectively, or any three of them, by an act of this commonwealth,\* are empowered to do and perform certain special matters and things, formerly directed to be done and performed by the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the said city; but no provision has been hitherto made by law for registering the names of the German passengers, who shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia, and taking the acknowledgment of the indentures of such

[\*Act of 13th March, 1777, chap. 235.]

(a) The revival of the corporation, laws referred to in the preamble, see by the act of the 11th of March, 1789, an act of the 27th of January, 1749 50. does not appear to affect the establishment of the Register's office. For the and an act of the 18th of May, 1765.

passengers as shall or may bind themselves servants for their freight: And whereas reason and justice require that the officer, who is to execute so important a trust for foreigners, should be fully acquainted with their language, and able to converse with them :

SECT. III. *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 an office for registering all German passengers, who at any time hereafter shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia, and the execution of all such indentures, by which any of such passengers shall bind him or herself servants for their freight, shall be and is hereby established; and that a person, understanding and speaking the English and German languages with ease and propriety, an inhabitant of the said city, in confidence and reputation with the public for his integrity and discretion, shall from time to time be appointed and commissioned by the President or Vice-President in Council, and, being duly sworn to the true and faithful performance of the several duties required of him by this act, before the Chief Justice or any one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of this state, shall be the Register of German passengers arriving in the port of Philadelphia, and, by virtue of his said office, shall use and exercise all the powers and authorities of a Justice of the Peace for the city and county of Philadelphia, as far as the same shall be required for the support and efficacy of his office, and the laws respecting the importation of German passengers, and binding them out servants, and not otherwise: And that the Health-officer, having received from the captain of any vessel importing German passengers the list of their names, shall, with his German interpreter, review all the said passengers on board, men, women and children, and enquire whether any of them are superannuated, impotent, or otherwise likely to become chargeable to the public, and make report thereof in writing to the said Register, who, if he approves thereof, shall enter the same in a book for that purpose to be kept by him, and transmit the original thereof to the office of the secretary of the Supreme Executive Council, and give his order and licence to land such of them as are returned sound, without any defect in mind and body.

SECT. IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all indentures of such German passengers, men, women and children, by which they shall be bound to serve, and all assignments of servants made within the said city, shall be made and acknowledged before the said Register, or his lawful deputy, and by him certified, and the full contents thereof entered and registered in the same manner, and to the same effect, as servants' indentures and assignments of servants were heretofore by law made and acknowledged before the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia, and by him registered; and that all persons whom it may concern shall be entitled to have a copy or abstract of such register.

SECT. V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the fees of the said Register shall be the same as were usually

1785.

An office for registering and indenting German passengers instituted.

Officer to be appointed who speaks the German language.

How qualified.

His powers and duties.

Health officer to report to him respecting German passengers.

The report to be recorded and transmitted to the Secretary.

Order to land.

Indentures and assignments to be made and acknowledged, before the Register, or deputy.

Copies of entries to be given.

Fee of the Register.

1785. taken by the Mayors of the said city, until it shall be otherwise provided by act of Assembly.

Passed 8th April, 1785—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 522. (b)

(b) By an act concerning the education of German redemptioners, who are minors, passed 19th of March, 1810, all masters or mistresses of German redemptioners, who are minors, and who shall arrive at the port of Philadelphia after the passing of this act, shall give to the said redemptioner six weeks schooling for every year of his or her term of servitude; and it shall be the duty of the Register of German passengers, to insert the same fully in their indentures.  
(See chap. 49, vol. 1, page 10, and the notes thereto subjoined.)

### CHAPTER MCLVII.

*An ACT to repeal part of an act of Assembly, entitled "An act to prevent the erecting any new and independent state within the limits of this commonwealth," so far as it directs trial for offences in another county, than that in which the offence was or might have been committed.*

[Original act, ante. chap. 989, pa. 66.]

SECT. I. WHEREAS, by the common law, trial is by jury of the vicinage, and in Pennsylvania the trial of offences has invariably been by good and lawful men of the county, wherein the offence was committed: And whereas it is declared and established by the constitution of this commonwealth, that trial shall be by jury, as heretofore: And whereas, in and by an act of Assembly of this commonwealth, entitled "An act to prevent the erecting any new and independent state, within the limits of this commonwealth," enacted on the third day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, it was enacted, that if any person or persons should commit any offence against the said act, every such offender might be tried, at the discretion and upon the order of the Supreme Executive Council, in any other county than that in which the offence should have been committed:

Repeal of so much of an act, as authorizes the trial of offences out of the proper county.

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 the act, entitled "An act to prevent the erecting a new and independent state, within the limits of this commonwealth," so far as it directs, enables or countenances the trial of any person or persons, charged with offence or offences in another county, than the county wherein such offence was done or committed, or alleged to be done or committed, shall be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and made null and void.*

Passed 31st August, 1785—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 542.

### CHAPTER MCLVIII.

*An ACT for incorporating the German Lutheran congregation of Germantown township, in the county of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania.*

Passed 31st August, 1785.—Private Act—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 543.