

attend to strike the same, at the office of the Prothonotary or Clerk of the Court," shall be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and made null and void. 1789.

Passed 27th March, 1789.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 495-6. (s)

(s) See an act passed April, 1811, of Philadelphia, for the trial of civil for establishing a new court in the city causes.

## CHAPTER MCCCII.

*An ACT to prevent the granting of Special Courts on the plaintiff's application.*

SECT. I. WHEREAS the granting of Special Courts, on the application of plaintiffs, under pretence of their sudden departure out of this commonwealth, has been found, on experience, to be attended with much injury to the good people thereof, by giving to foreigners an undue preference in the decision of causes: For remedy whereof,

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 so much of an act of General Assembly of this commonwealth, entitled "A supplement to an act, entitled "An act for establishing courts of justice in this province,"\* as authorizes or requires the Justices of the Supreme Court, or of any Court of Common Pleas within this commonwealth, to grant to any plaintiff or plaintiffs a special court or courts, or to hear and determine any suit, cause or action, without the usual imparlances, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Special courts not to be granted on the motion of plaintiffs. (\* Ante. p. 17, chap. 955.)

Passed 27th March, 1789.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 494.

## CHAPTER MCCCIII.

*An ACT to prevent the importation of convicts into this commonwealth.*

SECT. I. WHEREAS it hath been represented to this House by the United States in Congress assembled, that a practice prevails of importing felons convict into this state, under various pretences, which said felons convict, so imported, have been sold and dispersed among the people of this state, whereby much injury hath arisen to the morals of some, and others have been greatly endangered in their lives and property: For remedy whereof,

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, from and after the first day of May next, no captain or master of any vessel, or any other person or persons, shall knowingly or willingly import, bring or send, or cause or procure to be imported,

Penalty on importing felons convict into this state.

1789. brought or sent, or be aiding or assisting therein, into this commonwealth, by land or water, any felon convict, or person under sentence of death, or any other legal disability, incurred by a criminal prosecution, or who shall be delivered or sent to him or her from any prison, or place of confinement, in any place out of the United States.

Punishment  
for import-  
ing convicts.

SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That every captain or master of a vessel, or any other person, who shall so as aforesaid import, bring or send, or cause or procure to be imported, brought or sent, or be aiding and assisting therein, into this commonwealth, by land or water, or who shall, as factor or agent of the person or persons so offending, or, as consignee, sell, or offer for sale, any such person as above described, knowing him or her so to be, shall suffer three months imprisonment, without bail or mainprize, and shall forfeit and pay, over and beyond the costs of prosecution, for every such person so brought, imported or sent, or caused or procured so to be, or sold or offered for sale, fifty pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania, one half thereof to the commonwealth, and the other half to him or her who shall sue or prosecute for the same; which said penalty shall be recovered by action of debt, or information, in any court of record; and the defendant, or person sued, or impleaded therefor, shall be ruled to give special bail, in like manner, and under the same rules, as is usual in actions of debt founded on contract.

Recogni-  
zance to be  
given to  
transport  
such convicts  
out of the  
United  
States.

SECT. IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That every person who shall offend against this act, or any thing herein contained, shall, on conviction thereof, be adjudged and ordered to enter into a recognizance, with sufficient sureties, to convey and transport, within such reasonable time as shall be ordered and directed by the court, to some place or places without the bounds, limits and jurisdiction of the United States, every such felon convict, or other person of the description aforesaid, which he or she shall have been convicted of having brought, imported or sent, or having been aiding or assisting therein, into this commonwealth, against the true intent and meaning of this act, or of having so as aforesaid sold, or offered for sale; and in default of entering into such recognizance, with sufficient sureties, as aforesaid, he or she shall be committed to gaol, there to remain, without bail or mainprize, until he or she shall enter into such recognizance, with such sureties, as aforesaid, or until he or she shall cause every such person so as aforesaid by him or her imported, brought or sent, or caused or procured to have been imported, brought or sent, or that he or she shall have been aiding or assisting in the importing, bringing or sending, into this commonwealth, against the true intent and meaning of this act, or that he or she shall have been convicted of having so as aforesaid sold, or offered for sale.

Passed 27th March, 1789.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 497.