

declaring the rivers Delaware and Lehigh, and parts of Neshaminy creek, as far up as Barnsley's ford, and of the stream called Lechawaxen, as far up as the falls thereof, common highways, and for improving the navigation in the said rivers,"* passed the ninth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, the party or parties so convicted shall be liable to pay a fine, not exceeding two hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court. 1794.
 * [Vol. 1, p. 322.]

Passed 19th March, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 191.

CHAPTER MDCCXIII.

A SUPPLEMENT to the acts of Assembly made for the relief of insolvent debtors.

WHEREAS so much of the laws of this commonwealth made for the relief of insolvent debtors, as authorized and empowered the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas of the counties of this state, respectively, to discharge from personal imprisonment all persons, who then were, or thereafter might be held in execution for debt or demand, although the debts and demands to which any such prisoner was liable exceeded the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to any one of such prisoner's creditors, hath expired by its own limitation: And whereas justice and humanity require that insolvent debtors, who now are, or hereafter shall be, confined in the several gaols of this commonwealth, should be discharged, where presumption of fraud doth not appear, although their debts, respectively, shall exceed the aforesaid sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, to any one creditor: Therefore, [See vol. 1, page 181.]

SECT. I. *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 from and after the passing of this act, the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Judges of the several Courts of Common Pleas of this state, respectively, shall have jurisdiction and power to discharge from imprisonment all persons, who now are, or hereafter shall be, imprisoned for debts or demands, although such debts or demands exceed the aforesaid sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to any one creditor, and to grant relief in the premises in the same manner, and upon the same terms, as is directed by the acts of Assembly of this commonwealth made for the relief of insolvent debtors. Debtors to be discharged whose debts exceed £. 150.

SECT. II. And whereas, by reason of the shortness of the terms of April and September, a debtor confined in prison by virtue of process from the Supreme Court of this commonwealth is not, agreeably to the existing laws, enabled to obtain a determination of the said court on his or her petition for the benefit of the laws respecting insolvent debtors, during the court to which such petition is presented, when such petition is exhibited in either of the said terms: *Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That from and after the passing of this act, it shall and may be lawful Of notice to creditors.

1794. for the Supreme Court of this commonwealth to proceed upon, hear, and determine such petition, so exhibited in either of the said terms, upon such petitioner's giving ten days notice to his or her creditors of the time and place appointed for hearing such debtor, and his or her creditor or creditors.

Passed 3d April, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 193.

CHAPTER MDCCXV.

An ACT to authorize the admission of certain persons as witnesses, in cases respecting the settlement of paupers.

(Vol. 1, page 332.)

WHEREAS it appears that great inconveniences arise from the non-admission of the testimony, in cases respecting the settlement of paupers, of persons inhabiting either of the townships concerned, in as much as it frequently excludes the best possible light and evidence the nature of the case admits: For remedy whereof,

OF witnesses for settling paupers.

SECT. I. *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 the Justices of the Peace and the Judges of the several courts within this commonwealth are hereby authorized to admit, in all cases respecting the settlement of paupers, the testimony of every otherwise legal witness, notwithstanding he, she or they may be inhabitants of the city, district, borough, township or townships, concerned.*

Passed 3d April, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 194.

CHAPTER MDCCXIX.

An ACT to enable James Wallace and Rudolph Pickel to erect mill-dams on Swatara creek, in the county of Dauphin.

SECT. I. [JAMES WALLACE and Rudolph Pickel, severally authorized to erect mill dams over Swatara creek.

Dams how to be built.

Proviso.

SECT. II. *Provided, That such dam or dams be so constructed and kept in repair, with a proper slope or slopes, and a lock or locks, whereby the navigation of the said creek will not be injured, nor the passage of fish prevented; and that the rights of all and every person and persons whatsoever shall be and remain inviolate, and shall not be affected by this act, and especially that the privileges granted to the company incorporated for the purpose of opening a canal and lock navigation from Susquehanna to Schuylkill shall not be impaired or infringed by any thing herein contained.]*

Passed 8th April, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 197.