

sioners, the names of whom shall be entered on the minutes, consent thereto.

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SECT. XXXI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That no misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat or annul any gift, grant devise or bequest, to or from the said corporation, provided the intent of the parties shall sufficiently appear on the face of the gift, grant, will, or other writing, whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or from the said corporation; nor shall any disuser or nonuser of the rights, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions and authorities, hereby granted to the said corporation, or any of them, create or cause a forfeiture thereof.

Misnomer shall not affect grants to or from the corporation.

SECT. XXXII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That as often as any doubts shall arise touching this act, the same shall in all courts of law and equity, and elsewhere, be construed and taken most favourably for the said corporation.

This act how to be construed.

Passed 18th April, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 210.

CHAPTER MDCCXXXII.

An ACT to prevent the damages which may happen by firing of woods.

WHEREAS it hath been represented, that numbers of persons are in the custom of setting fire to the woods for different purposes, thereby producing an extensive conflagration, injurious to the soil, destructive to the timber, and the infant improvements within this state: Therefore,

(Sec vol. 1, page 129.)

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 whosoever shall at any time hereafter wilfully set on fire, or cause to be set on fire, any woods, lands or marshes whatsoever, within this commonwealth, so as thereby to occasion any loss, damage or injury, to any other person or persons, every such person or persons, so offending, and being thereof legally convicted, by the oath or affirmation of one or more witnesses, in the county court of quarter sessions where the offence is committed, shall pay a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, and not less than twenty dollars, the one half of such fine to be paid to the informer, and the other half to the overseer of the poor of the township where the offence is committed, for the use of the poor in the said township.

Penalty on setting fire to woods, lands or marshes.

SECT. II. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That where any person or persons, so offending, as thereby to occasion any loss, damage or injury, to any other person or persons, every such person or persons, so offending, shall be and are hereby declared liable to make satisfaction for the same, in any action or actions on the case to be brought by the party or parties grieved, in the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the offence was committed.

Offenders liable also to a civil suit.

SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That where any party is injured, and shall not demand above fifty

Proceedings to recover damages un-

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 der fifty
 dollars.

dollars for his loss or damage, it shall and may be lawful to and for such person or persons to apply to any justice of the peace of the county where the offence is committed, who is hereby empowered and required, by warrant under his hand and seal, to cause the party offending to be brought before him, or some other justice of the peace of the same county; and if, upon examination, it shall appear to the justice, by the testimony of one or more credible witness or witnesses, that the defendant is guilty of the charge exhibited against him, then the said justice shall issue his warrant to two or more freeholders of the neighbourhood, thereby commanding them, in the presence of the defendant, if he will be present, to view the place or thing damaged, or enquire into the loss sustained by the plaintiff, and to certify to the said justice, upon their oath or affirmation, what damage in their judgment the plaintiff hath sustained by occasion of the premises, and that upon the return of such certificate to the said justice, he is hereby empowered to grant execution for the recovery of the said damages, together with cost of prosecution, as is usual in the recovery of debts under ten pounds; *Provided always*, That if any person or persons shall apprehend him, her or themselves, aggrieved by the determination of any justice of the peace, in consequence of this act, he, she or they shall have a right to appeal from the judgment of the said justice to the next Court of Common Pleas of the proper county.

Appeal.

Servants
 offending,
 &c. how
 punished.

SECT. IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That where any offence shall be committed against the tenor of this act, by any white or black servant, without the direction of his, her or their master or mistress, respectively, and such offenders be thereof duly convicted, by the oath or affirmation of one credible witness, such offender or offenders, unless his or her master or mistress will pay the damages sustained, with costs of suit, shall be committed to the gaol of the county, there to be kept to hard labour for three months, and from thence until the cost of prosecution be paid.

Repeal of
 the former
 act.

*(chap. 338.)

SECT. V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the act, entitled "An Act to prevent the damages that may happen by firing of woods," passed the twenty-ninth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five,* is hereby repealed, and made null and void.

Passed 18th April, 1794.—Recorded in Law Book No. V. page 221.

CHAPTER MDCCXXXVI.

An ACT to incorporate the Insurance Company of the state of Pennsylvania.

[THIS company is incorporated by the name and style of "The insurance company of Pennsylvania," with the usual corporate powers. Deposits for safe keeping of money, to be in the bank of Pennsylvania. 2. The capital stock to be five hundred thousand dollars, and divided into shares of four hundred dollars each. 3. To