

highway, road or passage, or any other house or place whatsoever and shall be convicted thereof as aforesaid, shall for every such offense forfeit twenty shillings; the said several forfeitures to be levied by distress and sale of goods and chattels of the offender, by warrant of the said justices or chief-magistrates, one-half to the use of the poor of the city, county or division where any such offense shall be committed, and the other to the prosecutor.

[Section VII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person as aforesaid, who shall throw, or fire or assist in the throwing or firing any such fireworks, in or into any public street, house, shop, river, highway, road or passage, and be thereof convicted, as aforesaid, shall for every such offense, forfeit twenty shillings to the uses aforesaid, and pay the same immediately to the said justices or chief-magistrate, or be sent to the House of Correction, there to be kept to hard labor, for any time not exceeding one month, unless such offender sooner pay such forfeiture.

Passed February 28, 1710-11. Repealed by the Queen in Council, February 20, 1713-14. See Appendix III, Section II, and the Acts of Assembly passed August 26, 1721, Chapter 245, and February 9, 1750-51, Chapter 388.

CHAPTER CLXXV.

AN ACT TO PREVENT DISPUTES WHICH MAY HEREAFTER ARISE ABOUT THE DATES OF CONVEYANCES AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND WRITINGS.

Whereas the generality of the inhabitants of this province do conscientiously scruple to call the names of the months as they are usually called; but the month which others call March they call the First month, and the month, commonly called April, the Second month, and so of the rest of the months of the year; and the dates of many deeds, conveyances and other writings, as well as the times of payment of money, are ac-

cordingly mentioned and expressed. Now, forasmuch as disputes and controversies may hereafter arise concerning the premises:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by Charles Gookin, Esquire, by the Queen's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That all deeds, conveyances, mortgages, letters of attorney, or powers of agency, commissions, bonds, bills, charter-parties, leases, releases, contracts, articles, receipts, and all other instruments and writings whatsoever, wherein the names of the months are called First, Second, Third, Fourth, instead of March, April, May, June, and so of the rest, always accounting the month called March to be the first month of the year, shall and are hereby enacted and declared to be as good and available, and may be pleaded and shall be deemed, adjudged and taken in all courts of judicature, and elsewhere within this province, to be as valid and effectual in law, to all intents, constructions and purposes, as if the months in such writings had been set down and expressed by their usual names, any law, custom or usage to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed February 28, 1710-11. Confirmed by the Queen in Council, February 20, 1713-14. See Appendix III, Section II. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 11, 1752, Chapter 395.

CHAPTER CLXXVI.

AN ACT FOR PRIORITY OF PAYMENT OF DEBTS TO THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas many persons bringing into this province considerable cargoes of goods and visible estates do thereby acquire great and large credits from the inhabitants, and upon the death of such persons it often happens that such cargoes or