

sors for the same county, which said bills of credit shall be sunk by taxes to be laid on the county of Lancaster in the same manner that county levies are usually raised and levied, until all the bills of credit so as aforesaid received on the account and for the use of the said county be sunk in the manner prescribed for sinking bills of credit by this and one other act of assembly of this province made in the second year of His Majesty's reign for emitting and making current thirty thousand pounds.

[Section XV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That upon any emission of bills of credit to be made by virtue of this act the trustees are hereby directed and empowered so to devise the mortgage-deeds that the annual quotas or payments of the money thereby secured be made payable on the fifteenth day of October annually; and the trustees are hereby required, in settling their accounts with the auditors or committees of the assembly of this province, to render an account as well of the days and times of their receipts as of the days and times when the same sums are emitted again.

Passed February 6, 1730-31. Apparently never considered by the Crown, but allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Volume III, Appendix V, Section I, and note to the Act of Assembly passed March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 289.

CHAPTER CCCXX.

AN ACT FOR THE ENABLING RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES OF PROTESTANTS WITHIN THIS PROVINCE TO PURCHASE LANDS FOR BURYING GROUNDS, CHURCHES, HOUSES FOR WORSHIP, SCHOOLS, &c.

Whereas sundry religious societies of people within this province professing the Protestant religion have at their own respective costs and charges purchased small pieces of land within the province of Pennsylvania, and thereon have erected churches and other houses of religious worship, school-houses and almshouses and inclosed part of [the] same lands for

burying grounds. And whereas the said lands were purchased and paid for by the said respective societies in the name or names of persons at that time being of or professing themselves to be of the same religious persuasion with the societies who made use of the names of the said persons as trustees for and in behalf of the said societies.

And whereas some of the said trustees or their heirs, having afterwards changed their opinions and joined themselves to other religious societies of a different persuasion from the people by whom the said persons were at first entrusted, and upon pretext of their having the fee-simple of the lands so purchased in their names vested in them, have, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the first grant or gift, attempted (by granting away the said lands, houses of religious worship and burying grounds) to deprive the society of people in possession of the same of the right and use of the said houses of worship and burying grounds, to the great disquiet and uneasiness of many of the good people of this province; and others, being entrusted in the like manner, may hereafter do the same:

For remedy whereof, and for the better securing the several religious societies in the quiet and peaceable possession of their churches, houses of worship, school-houses and almshouses and burying grounds within this province:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable Patrick Gordon, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania and of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That all sales, gifts or grants made of any lands or tenements within the province of Pennsylvania to any person or persons in trust for sites of churches, houses of religious worship, schools, almshouses and for burying grounds or for any of them shall be and are hereby ratified and confirmed to the person or persons to whom the same were sold, given or granted, their heirs and assigns, in trust, nevertheless, and for the use of the respective religious societies for whose use the same were at first sold, given, granted or purchased, according to the true intent and meaning of such gifts

or grants; and that every sale, gift, grant or devise of any such trustee or trustees or any person or persons in whose name or names the said lands for erecting churches, houses of religious worship, schools, almshouses or burying grounds within this province were purchased, taken or accepted, or the heirs or assigns of such trustees, shall be and are hereby declared to be for the sole use, benefit and behoof of the said respective societies, who have been in the peaceable possession of the same for the space of twenty-one years next before the tenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and thirty, or for whose use the same were at first given, granted or devised, and no other.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any religious society of Protestants within this province to purchase, take and receive by gift, grant, or otherwise, for burying grounds, erecting churches, houses of religious worship, schools and almshouses, for any estate whatsoever, and to hold the same for the uses aforesaid of the lord of the fee by the accustomed rents.

[Section III.] Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall be deemed, taken or construed to enable any of the said religious societies of people, or any person or persons whatsoever in trust for them or to their use, to purchase, take or receive any lands or tenements by gift, grant or otherwise for or towards the maintenance or support of the said churches, houses of worship, schools or almshouses or the people belonging to the same, or for any other use or purpose save for the uses in this act before mentioned.

Provided also, That this act nor anything therein contained shall be deemed or construed to impeach the just right or title which any person or persons may have to any of the lands or tenements hereinbefore mentioned, so that they prosecute such their right or claim within the space of three years next after the publication of this act.

Passed February 6, 1730-31. Apparently never considered by the Crown, but allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accord-

ance with the proprietary charter. See Volume III, Appendix V, Section I, and the Acts of Assembly passed April 6, 1791, Chapter 1547; February 17, 1818, P. L. 104; April 8, 1833, P. L. 238; (the Constitution of 1838, Article VII, Section III;) October 13, 1840, P. L. (1841) 1; April 22, 1841, P. L. 269; August 2, 1842, P. L. 458; February 20, 1854, P. L. 90; April 26, 1855, P. L. 328; May 7, 1855, P. L. 477; April 9, 1856, P. L. 293; March 26, 1867, P. L. 44; April 4, 1872, P. L. 40; April 29, 1874, P. L. 73; April 17, 1876, P. L. 30; May 8, 1876, P. L. 143; May 26, 1876, P. L. 211; May 24, 1877, P. L. 39; April 11, 1879, P. L. 22; May 13, 1879, P. L. 60; May 23, 1887, P. L. 168; June 2, 1887, P. L. 298; April 22, 1889, P. L. 42; May 9, 1889, P. L. 173; May 21, 1889, P. L. 257; May 29, 1889, P. L. 395; May 26, 1891, P. L. 119; June 8, 1891, P. L. 211; June 9, 1891, P. L. 249; April 10, 1893, P. L. 14; June 6, 1893, P. L. 325; June 10, 1893, P. L. 435; May 23, 1895, P. L. 114.

CHAPTER CCCXXI.

AN ACT FOR AMENDMENT OF THE LAW, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS."

Whereas sundry idle and ill-disposed persons who were indebted before the commencement of an act of assembly of this province, entitled "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors,"¹ have very much abused their creditors and disappointed the good intentions of the legislature in making the said act, and especially single or unmarried persons who were indebted in small sums of money which they could easily have paid by their labor, have taken the advantage of the said act of assembly by procuring themselves to be discharged as insolvent debtors, by means whereof many creditors of low circumstances have lost their debts and been obliged to pay the costs of suit:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by the Honorable Patrick Gordon, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons whatsoever shall have any benefit of the afore-

¹ Passed February 14, 1729-30, Chapter 315.