

CHAPTER CCCCIII.

AN ACT FOR EXTENDING SO MUCH OF AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR PUNISHING MUTINY AND DESERTION AND FOR THE BETTER PAYMENT OF THE ARMY AND THEIR QUARTERS,"¹ PASSED IN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE PRESENT REIGN, AS RELATES TO THE QUARTERING AND BILLETING OF SOLDIERS AND PAYMENT OF THEIR QUARTERS IN THAT PART OF GREAT BRITAIN CALLED ENGLAND.

Whereas it is the undoubted right of the British subjects that they are not to be burdened with the sojourning of soldiers against their will, and that no officer, civil or military, or other person whatsoever shall presume to place, quarter or billet any soldier or soldiers upon any British subject, of any degree, quality or profession whatsoever, without his consent, and that it shall and may be lawful for any subject, sojourner or inhabitant to refuse to quarter any soldier or soldiers, notwithstanding any demand, warrant or billeting whatsoever. But forasmuch as at this time there is and may be occasion during the continuance of this act for the marching and quartering the King's forces in several parts of this province:

We pray that it may be enacted:

[Section I.] And be it enacted by the Honorable Robert Hunter Morris, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon 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 so much of the statute made in the twenty-eighth year of the present reign, entitled "An act for punishing mutiny and desertion and for the better payment of the army and their quarters," as relates to the quartering and billeting of soldiers and payment of their quarters in that part of Great

¹ 7 Ruffhead, 576, (text not given).

Britain called England shall be duly observed and put in execution in this province, and be of like force and effect during the continuance of this act as if the same act were here repeated and enacted; and the constables and chief officers and magistrates of the city of Philadelphia and the other towns, villages and places, and the justices of the peace within this province, shall have like power and authority and perform like duties as in and by the hereinbefore-mentioned act of Parliament is required and enjoined. But forasmuch as many of the inhabitants of this province are such who for conscience's sake cannot take an oath:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all matters, causes and offenses whatsoever to be enquired of, heard, tried and determined by virtue of this act shall and may be inquired of, heard, tried and determined by judges, justices, inquests and witnesses qualifying themselves according to their conscientious persuasion respectively, either by an oath or affirmation, according to the laws of this province.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue in force for the term of twelve months from and after the publication thereof and from thence to the end of the next sessions of assembly and no longer.

Passed August 15, 1755. Repealed by the King in Council, July 7, 1756. See Appendix XXI, Section I.

CHAPTER CCCCIV.

AN ACT TO CONTINUE AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR DIRECTING THE CHOICE OF INSPECTORS IN THE COUNTIES OF CHESTER, LANCASTER, YORK, CUMBERLAND, BERKS AND NORTHAMPTON." ¹

Whereas the act, entitled "An act for directing the choice of inspectors in the counties of Chester, Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks and Northampton," passed in the twenty-fifth year of the present reign, hath been found by experience to be of good use, but the said act, being made for three years only, is now expired by its own limitation:

¹ Passed March 11, 1752-53, Chapter 396.