

offense shall be committed or to some one of them for the use of the poor of the said parish.

[Section LXIX.] And for the better preventing abuses in quartering or billeting the soldiers in pursuance of this act:

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any one or more justice or justices of the peace, within their respective counties, cities or liberties, by warrant or order under his or their hand and seal or hands and seals, at any time or times during the continuance of this act, to require and command any high constable, constable, bedel or other officer who shall quarter or billet any soldiers in pursuance of this act to give an account in writing unto the said justice or justices requiring the same, of the number of officers and soldiers who shall be quartered or billeted by them and also the names of the housekeepers or persons upon whom every such officer or soldier shall be quartered or billeted, together with an account of the street or place where every such housekeeper dwells and of the signs (if any) belonging to their houses, to the end it may appear to the said justice or justices where such officers and soldiers are quartered or billeted, and that he or they may thereby be the better enabled to prevent or punish all abuses in the quartering or billeting of them.

Passed December 8, 1756. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, May 12, 1757, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXI, Section IV, and the Acts of Assembly passed March 17, 1757, Chapter 420; April 29, 1758, Chapter 433.

CHAPTER CCCCXVI.

AN ACT FOR BINDING OUT AND SETTTLING SUCH OF THE INHABITANTS OF NOVA SCOTIA IMPORTED INTO THIS PROVINCE AS ARE UNDER AGE, AND FOR MAINTAINING THE AGED, SICK AND MAIMED AT THE CHARGE OF THE PROVINCE.

Whereas it has been found by experience that the act of general assembly of this province passed in the twenty-ninth year of the present reign, entitled "An act for dispersing the inhabit-

ants of Nova Scotia imported into this province into the several counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster and the townships thereof, and making provision for the same,"¹ has not answered the good intentions of the legislature of uniting them with His Majesty's loyal subjects by granting the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia equal privileges and immunities with the inhabitants and settlers of this province. And the grievous burden of maintaining them in the manner hitherto used is greater than the good people of this province under their present distressed circumstances are well able to bear.

And forasmuch as there are numbers of children among them whose real advantage and interest it would undoubtedly prove to be brought up in industry and frugality and bound out to learn husbandry or some other profitable art whereby they might become reputable inhabitants entitled to the rights of the British subjects, and their parents thereby eased of the charge of their maintenance, as well as the public, which by proper care, may be in a good degree relieved from the present heavy expense:

[Section I.] Therefore be it enacted by the Honorable William Denny, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and of the 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 the overseers of the poor of the several townships wherein the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia by virtue of the act of assembly hereinbefore-mentioned are or have been dispersed shall, and they are hereby required and enjoined, within two months after the passing of this act or as soon afterwards as they conveniently can, by and with the consent and approbation of one or more justices of the peace to bind out such of the children of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia, whose parents or friends are incapable to maintain or neglect otherwise to provide for, to kind masters or mistresses on the best terms they can obtain, upon condition with the said masters or

¹Passed March 5, 1756, Chapter 408.

mistresses in their respective indentures that the said children shall be taught to read and write the English language and such reputable and profitable occupations as may enable them to support themselves at the expiration of their respective indentures, the male children until they attain the age of twenty-one years and the female children until they attain the age of eighteen years respectively and no longer.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That at the expiration of the said indentures respectively the person or persons shall be deemed to have gained a legal settlement in the city or township where he or they shall have been bound out in pursuance of this act, unless the said person or persons shall have gained a settlement in some other township according to the laws of this province now in force.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That such of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia as by reason of age, impotence or any bodily sickness or infirmity are rendered incapable to maintain or provide for themselves shall be provided for and maintained by the overseers of the poor of the respective townships wherein they are dispersed in like manner as the poor inhabitants of this province are supported by the laws now in being, but at the charge of the province.

[Section IV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the act of assembly of this province hereinbefore-mentioned, entitled "An act for dispersing the inhabitants of Nova Scotia imported into this province into the several counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster and the townships thereof, and making provision for the same," and every clause, matter and thing therein-contained shall be and is hereby repealed and utterly made null and void to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever.

Passed January 18, 1757. Confirmed by the King in Council, June 16, 1758. See Appendix XXI, Section IV, and the Act of Assembly passed September 27, 1757, Chapter 426.