

the offenders aforesaid shall be applied and appropriated to the same use and purpose as the before mentioned fine of forty shillings is applied and appropriated in and by the act, entitled "An act for regulating and continuing the nightly watch and enlightening the streets, lanes and alleys of the city of Philadelphia and for raising of money on the inhabitants and estates of the said city for defraying the expenses thereof."¹

[Section IV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every article, clause and thing therein contained shall be and is hereby declared to be and continue in full force and virtue for and during the same term and time as is limited and appointed for the continuance of the act to which this act is a supplement and no longer.

Passed February 8, 1766. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 11, 1767, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXV, Section I, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed September 15, 1756, Chapter 411. Expired.

CHAPTER DXXXIII.

AN ACT TO PREVENT CUTTING OR DAMAGING THE ROPES USED BY THE FERRYMEN ON SCHUYLKILL OR ELSEWHERE WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas the ropes used by the ferrymen in drawing their boats over the river Schuylkill and other rivers and creeks within this province greatly tend to the dispatch, ease and security of persons passing over the same. And whereas several evil minded persons going up and down the said river Schuylkill have wantonly and maliciously cut the said ropes, to the great obstruction of travelers and damage of the owners thereof:

For prevention therefore of the like mischiefs in future:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, 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

¹ Passed September 15, 1756, Chapter 411.

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 if any person or persons, from and after the publication of this act, shall cut any rope stretched across any of the said rivers or creeks by the owner or occupier of any ferry and used in drawing the boats carrying travelers over the same, and shall be thereof legally convicted before any county court of quarter sessions to be held for the county where the said offense shall be committed or such offender apprehended, every such person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds, one moiety thereof to the owner or owners of the said rope and the other moiety thereof to the overseers of the poor of the city or township where such owner or owners shall reside, to be applied by them to the use of the poor of the said township.

And in order to preserve the navigation of the said rivers and creeks as free as conveniently may be:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall have occasion to go up or [down the] said rivers or creeks in shallops or other larger decked vessels, every such person shall request the owners or occupiers, their ferrymen or servants, to slacken and sink the said ropes in such manner as to enable him or them to pass with his shallop or other larger decked vessel in safety, and if the said owners or occupiers, their ferrymen or servants, shall neglect or refuse to slacken and sink the said rope in manner aforesaid with all convenient speed, every such owner or occupier being thereof legally convicted in the said court of quarter sessions shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds, one moiety thereof to the owner or owners of the said vessels so passing up or down the said river or creeks, and the other moiety to the overseers of the poor of the said township for the use of the poor thereof.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all flats or boats passing up and down the said river, if they shall be navigated by sails, shall have their masts to strike or take down occasionally, and the owners thereof, when they come near to the said ropes, shall take [down] and

strike the said masts, and shall with all other flats and boats pass under the said ropes without injuring or damaging the same as aforesaid unless the said flats shall be so loaded as to require the raising or sinking the said ropes, in which case the said owner or owners of any of the said ropes, his or their servant or servants, shall on such notice to be given as aforesaid by the person navigating such loaded flats, [raise] or sink the said ropes in such manner as to suffer and enable the said flats to pass by with safety under the said penalty of ten pounds, to be recovered and applied in manner aforesaid.

Passed February 8, 1766. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 11, 1767, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXV, Section I, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed February 22, 1717-18, chapter 230; and the Acts of Assembly passed April 15, 1834, P. L. 509; (the Constitution of 1874, Article III, Section VII); April 29, 1874, P. L. 73; March 14, 1876, P. L. 6; April 17, 1876, P. L. 30; June 6, 1887, P. L. 352; May 23, 1889, P. L. 277.

CHAPTER DXXXIV.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER EMPLOYMENT, RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF THE POOR WITHIN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHWARK, THE TOWNSHIPS OF MOYAMENSING AND PASSYUNK AND THE NORTHERN LIBERTIES.

Whereas the poor within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, the townships of Moyamensing and Passyunk and the Northern Liberties are become very burdensome and expensive to the inhabitants, and the charge of their support is likely to increase, without affording them so comfortable a subsistence as might otherwise be supplied, for want of proper buildings and due regulations for their employment and relief:

And whereas divers inhabitants of this province are charitably disposed to contribute largely towards so good a work if such contributors might be incorporated with proper powers and privileges for carrying on and completing the same, and a sum of money could be raised by law within the city, district and townships aforesaid and appropriated to the purposes aforesaid: