

the authority aforesaid, That if the said John Burrows and William Waters, respectively, shall upon any indictment for taking a false and corrupt oath or affirmation in any matter or thing contained in the said oath or affirmation be convicted of his own confession or by the verdict of twelve men, he shall suffer all the pains, penalties and disabilities which by law may be inflicted on persons convicted of willful and corrupt perjury, and shall likewise be liable to be arrested, taken and imprisoned upon any process *de novo* and charged in execution for the same debt in the same manner as if he had never been in execution or discharged before, and shall forever after be barred of any benefit of this act.

Passed December 24, 1774. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, July 21, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXII.

CHAPTER DCCV.

AN ACT TO SUPPRESS THE DISORDERLY PRACTICE OF FIRING GUNS, &c., ON THE TIMES THEREIN MENTIONED.¹

Whereas a disorderly practice prevails in many parts of this province of firing guns at or near New Year's Day, which is frequently attended with much mischief and greatly disturbs the public peace:

For remedy whereof for the future:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the consent and advice of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if after the publication of this act any person or persons shall on any thirty-first day of December or first or second day of January in every

¹ The original roll of this act is missing; and therefore it has been compared with the copy in the Act Books.

year wantonly and without reasonable occasion discharge and fire off any hand-gun, pistol or other firearms, or shall cast, or fire any squibs, rockets or other fireworks within the inhabited parts of this province to the disturbance of any of His Majesty's subjects there inhabiting and being, every such person offending and being thereof convicted before any one justice of the peace of the county or mayor or other head officer or justice of peace of any city or town corporate where such offense shall be committed, either by confession of the party so offending or the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witness[es] (which oath or affirmation the said justice or other officer aforesaid is hereby empowered and required to administer) shall for every such offense forfeit for the use of the poor of the township or district where such offender lives the sum of ten shillings, to be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels by warrant under the hand and seal of the justice or other officer before whom such offender shall be convicted, returning the overplus if any to the owner, the reasonable charge of distraining being first deducted, and for want of such distress such offender shall be committed to prison for the space of five days without bail or mainprise.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons after the publication of this act shall willingly permit or suffer within the time aforesaid any person or persons to discharge or fire off at his or her house any hand-gun, pistol or other firearms, or to cast, throw or fire any squibs, rockets or other fireworks as aforesaid, every person so as aforesaid offending and being thereof convicted in manner aforesaid shall for every such offense forfeit and pay for the use aforesaid the sum of twenty shillings, to be recovered in manner aforesaid.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the constable of each respective city, borough, township or place in every county of this province having any knowledge of any offenses against this act shall and he is hereby required under the penalty of twenty shillings to present on oath or affirmation every such offense to one of the next justices of the peace of their respective counties or before the justice of

the general quarter sessions of the peace for the same county, together with the name or names of all such offenders, that they may be tried agreeably to the directions of this act.

[Section IV.] Provided always, That if any person shall conceive him or herself aggrieved by the judgment of any such justice, he or she may appeal to the next county court of quarter sessions of the said county, who shall on the petition of the party take such order therein as to them shall appear just and reasonable, and the same shall be conclusive to all parties.

[Section V.] Provided always, That no person or persons shall be prosecuted or troubled for any offense against this act unless the same be prosecuted within four months after the offense committed.

Passed December 24, 1774. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, July 21, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXII, and the notes to the Acts of Assembly passed August 26, 1721, Chapter 245; February 9, 1750-51, Chapter 388; April 9, 1760, Chapter 456; and the Acts of Assembly passed April 11, 1844, P. L. 250; April 15, 1851, P. L. 658.

CHAPTER DCCVI.

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECORDING OF DEEDS."¹

Whereas by the different and secret ways of conveying lands, tenements and hereditaments such as are ill disposed have it in their power to commit frauds [by means] whereof divers persons may be injured in their purchases and mortgages by prior and secret conveyances and fraudulent encumbrances:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the consent and advice of the representatives of the freemen of said Province in General Assembly

¹ Passed May 28, 1715, Chapter 208.