

the duties of their respective offices until a new appointment or future provision shall be made in such case.

[Section VIII.] And be it further ordained and declared, That this ordinance shall continue and remain in force until altered or repealed by the future legislature of this state or by this convention.

Passed September 3, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the Constitution of 1776, Plan of Government, Section 30; and the Acts of Assembly passed February 5, 1777, Chapter 739; August 31, 1778, Chapter 804. Expired.

CHAPTER DCCXXXII.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA DECLARING WHAT SHALL BE TREASON AND FOR PUNISHING THE SAME AND OTHER CRIMES AND PRACTICES AGAINST THE STATE.

Whereas government ought at all times to take the most effectual measures for the safety and security of the state:

[Section I.] Be it therefore ordained and declared and it is hereby ordained and declared by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania in General Convention met, That all and every person and persons (except prisoners of war) now inhabiting or residing within the limits of the state of Pennsylvania or that shall voluntarily come into the same hereafter to inhabit or sojourn do and shall owe and pay allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania.

[Section II.] And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That all and every such person and persons so owing allegiance to the state of Pennsylvania who from and after the publication hereof shall levy war against this state or be adherent to the King of Great Britain or others the enemies of this state or to the enemies of the United States of America by giving him or them aid or assistance within the limits of this state or elsewhere, and shall be thereof duly convicted in any court of oyer and terminer hereafter to be erected according to law,

shall be adjudged guilty of high treason and forfeit his lands, tenements, goods and chattels to the use of the state, and be imprisoned any term not exceeding the duration of the present war with Great Britain at the discretion of the judge or judges.

[Section III.] And be it further ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons, (except as before excepted) residing, inhabiting or sojourning in this state who shall hereafter know of such treason and conceal the same, or that shall receive or assist such traitor knowing him to be such, and shall be thereof duly convicted as aforesaid, shall be adjudged guilty of misprison of treason and suffer the forfeiture of one-third of his goods and chattels, lands and tenements, to the use of the state, and be imprisoned any term, not exceeding the duration of the present war with Great Britain, at the discretion of the judge or judges.

[Section IV.] And be it further ordained and declared, That in all convictions for high treason the judge or judges before whom the trial is had may out of the estate forfeited by virtue of this act make such provision for the wife or children if any of the criminal as he or they in his or their discretion may deem necessary.

[Section V.] And be it further ordained and declared, That this ordinance shall be in force till the end of the first session of the first assembly that shall meet under the new constitution of this state and no longer.

Passed September 5, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 236; and the Act of Assembly passed February 11, 1777, Chapter 740. Expired.

CHAPTER DCCXXXIII.

AN ORDINANCE FOR PUNISHING PERSONS GUILTY OF CERTAIN OFFENSES THEREIN MENTIONED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas evil disposed persons may by speaking or writing endeavor to influence the minds of weak and unwary persons