

THE STATUTES AT LARGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Laws enacted in the first sitting of the fourth General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which met at Philadelphia, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord 1779.

CHAPTER DCCCLXVII.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING CHIMNEY SWEEPERS WITHIN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, THE DISTRICT OF SOUTHWARK AND THE TOWNSHIP OF THE NORTHERN LIBERTIES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section 1, P. L.) Whereas the houses and estates of the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and the township of the Northern Liberties of the city of Philadelphia are frequently endangered by chimneys taking fire and blazing out at the top, and great complaints have been made for want of a proper regulation among those, who undertake the sweeping of chimneys:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons, from and after the tenth day of December next, shall follow the business or occupation of a chimney sweeper, either by himself, his servants, negroes or others within the city of Philadelphia,

the district of Southwark or the township of the Northern Liberties aforesaid without having first made application to the officer hereinafter directed to be appointed, and having registered his or their name or names and the name or names of his or their servants, negroes, or other persons aforesaid, with a number affixed to each and every such name, in a book by the said officer to be kept for that purpose, and without procuring and receiving from the said officer a certificate of every such registry, containing the number and name of every person so entered, under the penalty of fifteen pounds for every day he shall follow by himself, or cause to be followed by his servants, negroes or others, the said business, which said certificates the said officer is hereby enjoined and required to make out under his hand and to deliver to the person or persons who shall apply for the same, and for every such registry and certificate he shall receive the sum of three pounds and no more.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person following the business aforesaid, within the said city, district and liberties, shall (if he follows the employment himself) wear (or if he employs his servants, negroes or others) cause to be worn, on the front of their caps, in full view, without any concealment, the same figures and numbers respectively as shall be so as aforesaid entered in the said book, and contained in his or their respective certificates, and none other, in large figures, not less than two inches in length, to be made of strong, durable tin or copper; and that all and every person and persons who shall follow the said business or employment, by him or themselves, or by his or their servants, negroes or others, not having the said number fixed on his or their cap and caps, and the cap and caps of his and their servants, negroes and other persons aforesaid, according to the directions aforesaid, or when fixed, shall wilfully deface or conceal the same, or shall neglect to keep them plain and visible, shall, for each and every such offense forfeit and pay the sum of fifteen pounds for every day he or they shall follow the said employment, not wearing the said number as aforesaid.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, undertaking the business or occupation aforesaid shall not within forty-eight hours after application to him or them made by any of the inhabitants of the said city, district or Northern Liberties, sweep or cause to be swept, such chimney or chimneys as he or they shall be required to sweep, every such person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifteen pounds.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every chimney sweeper shall have and receive for every chimney by him swept within the city of Philadelphia, and for every chimney by him swept in the district and liberties aforesaid not more than one mile distant from the northern and southern boundaries of the said city a sum not exceeding forty-five shillings.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the chimney of any person or persons within the said city, district or liberties shall take fire and blaze out at the top, the same not having been swept within the space of one calendar month next before the time of taking such fire, every such [person or] persons shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifteen pounds, and if any chimney shall take fire and blaze out at the top, the same having been swept within one calendar month from the time of such taking fire, the person who swept the same, either by himself, his servants or negroes, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifteen pounds.

[Section VI.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person who shall follow the business or occupation of a chimney sweeper, either by himself, his servants, negroes or others within the said city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark or the township of the Northern Liberties, shall pay unto the officer hereinafter directed to be appointed the sum of ten shillings for every working day from and after the publication hereof until the first day of April next ensuing, and thereafter from the first day of October till the first day of April in each and every year during the continuance of this act for his care and trouble in the execution thereof.

(Section VIII, P. L.) And to the end that the regulations by this act prescribed may be executed:

[Section VII.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any three of the justices of the peace of the said city and county, together with the wardens of the said city shall appoint the officer for registering and granting certificates to chimney sweepers, and for collecting of the said fines and forfeitures, who is hereby strictly required to do and perform the several duties of the said office enjoined by this act.

[Section VIII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the justices of the peace for the city and county of Philadelphia, or any three or more of them, in open court of quarter sessions or at any other time to regulate, lessen or increase and fix the prices for sweeping of chimneys in such manner as to them shall appear just, and under their hands from time to time to publish the same in one or more of the newspapers, so that all concerned may govern themselves accordingly, anything in this act in that respect contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

[Section IX.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the penalties and forfeitures imposed by virtue of this act shall be paid one-half thereof to the use of the officer aforesaid, and the other half thereof to the overseers of the poor of the said city, district or township where the offense shall be committed for the use of the poor thereof, to be sued for in the name of the officer, and recovered before any justice of the peace for the said city and county, who is hereby authorized to hear, try and determine the same.

(Section XI, P. L.) Provided always, That nothing in this act shall extend or be construed to [extend to] a greater distance than one mile from without the bounds of the city of Philadelphia.

[Section X.] (Section XII, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the act of general assembly passed in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-one, entitled "An act for preventing accidents that may

happen by fire,"¹ and of the act of general assembly passed in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one, entitled "An act for the more effectual preventing accidents which may happen by fire, and for suppressing idleness, drunkenness and other debaucheries,"² as relates to the firing of chimneys within the said city, and one other act of general assembly passed the twenty-first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, entitled "An act for regulating chimney sweepers within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and the township of the Northern Liberties,"³ shall be and are hereby declared to be repealed.

[Section XI.] (Section XIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue and be in force for and during the term of seven years next ensuing, and from thence to the end of the next sitting of the general assembly and no longer.

Passed November 25, 1779. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 311, etc.
See the note to the Act of Assembly passed March 21, 1772, Chapter 648, and the Acts of Assembly passed March 8, 1780, Chapter 888; September 29, 1787, Chapter 1318.

CHAPTER DCCCLXVIII.

AN ACT FOR RAISING THE SUM OF TWO MILLIONS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS MONTHLY DURING EIGHT MONTHS IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE TREASURY OF THIS STATE.

(Section 1, P. L.) Whereas the honorable Congress, by an act of their body dated the fourth day of October last, did call upon the several states to raise, in such manner as each state may judge expedient, [sufficient sums] to enable the said states to pay into the continental treasury, or to the order of Congress, on or before the first day of February next, and on or before the

¹ Passed August 26, 1721, Chapter 245.

² Passed February 9, 1751, Chapter 388.

³ Passed March 21, 1772, Chapter 648.