

collected and paid shall not be levied, collected and paid in the several months herein before provided according to the intent of this act, that in such case the same shall be levied, collected and paid as soon after as may be and applied in the manner herein before mentioned and directed.

(Section IX, P. L.) Provided also, That if any person liable to pay the monthly assessment aforesaid shall be disposed to advance the sums he or she is liable to pay in any other month or months, than the monthly tax demanded of him or her, the collector, upon tender thereof shall be obliged to receive and give a discharge for the same.

Passed November 25, 1779. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed April 3, 1779, Chapter 340; and the Act of Assembly passed June 1, 1780, Chapter 912.

CHAPTER DCCCLXIX.

AN ACT MORE EFFECTUALLY TO PREVENT COUNTERFEITING THE CONTINENTAL LOAN OFFICE CERTIFICATES, THE CONTINENTAL LOAN OFFICE BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND THE PAPER MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, OR ANY OF THEM.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the want of a sufficient quantity of gold and silver to answer the purposes of commerce, the exigencies of government, and to carry on the present just and necessary war against the King of Great Britain, induced the Congress of the United Colonies and now States of America, and also the assemblies, congresses and conventions of the several thirteen Colonies and now States of America, to emit and circulate certain paper bills of credit to pass in payments for limited periods, the counterfeiting of which, or the uttering the same so counterfeited as and for true, good and genuine bills, knowing the same to be so counterfeited, hath usually been made felonies in these United States respectively:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas by an act, entitled "An act for making the continental bills of credit and the bills of credit emitted by resolves of the late assemblies, legal tender and for

other purposes therein mentioned,"¹ the counterfeiting of such paper bills of credit, or uttering any of them so counterfeited, knowing them to be such, which were issued before the twenty-eighth day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, are made felonies of death without benefit of clergy; and the counterfeiting the bills of credit of this commonwealth made and issued by virtue of an act, entitled "An act for emitting the sum of two hundred thousand pounds in bills of credit for the defense of this state, and providing a fund for sinking the same by a tax on all estates, real and personal, and on all taxables within the same,"² or emitted and made current by the resolves of the late assemblies of Pennsylvania, or the uttering such bills, knowing them to be counterfeit as aforesaid, is by the said act made a felony of death but not ousting the benefit of clergy:

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas the counterfeiting the certificates of the continental loan offices, or any of the bills of credit emitted by the resolves of the Congress of the United States, or selling, giving in payment or otherwise uttering or distributing any of the said counterfeit certificates or bills of credit, knowing them to be such is by an act, entitled "An act for punishing the counterfeiting the continental loan office certificates and lottery tickets,"³ made a felony of death, not ousting clergy; and the counterfeiting any of the said paper bills of credit, or continental loan office certificates, or uttering any of them, knowing the same to be so counterfeited, which have issued since the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and also the counterfeiting or uttering as aforesaid any of the continental loan office bills of exchange is punishable only by the common law:

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas it is just and right that offenses and crimes of equal enormity and guilt should receive the like punishments and it highly interests each of the United States by all means in their power to provide against the debasing of their medium of commerce:

¹ Passed January 29, 1777, Chapter 738.

² Passed March 20, 1777, Chapter 752.

³ Passed March 20, 1777, Chapter 753.

[Section I.] (Section V, P. L.) Be it therefore 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 from and after the publication of this act, if any person or persons shall, within this state or elsewhere, prepare, engrave, stamp, forge or print, or cause or procure to be prepared, engraved, stamped, forged or printed, the counterfeit resemblance of any paper bills of credit issued, emitted or made by the Congress of the United States of America or by the assemblies, congresses, conventions or other legislative authority of this, or of any other of the said states, or which shall be issued, emitted or made by them respectively, on or before the first day of January now next ensuing, or of any of the certificates of the several continental loan offices or continental loan office bills of exchange, issued or made or which shall at any time hereafter be issued or made, or shall counterfeit or sign the name or names of the signers of any true bills or loan office certificates or continental loan office bills of exchange to such counterfeit paper, with an intention that such counterfeit paper shall be passed in payments or received as genuine and good bills, certificates or bills of exchange, whether the same be so passed or received or not, or if any person or persons shall, in this state pass, pay or tender in payment any such counterfeit money or certificates or bills of exchange, or deliver the same to any other person or persons with an intention that they be passed, paid or received as and for good and genuine, knowing the [same] to be forged or counterfeited, every such person, being thereof lawfully convicted or attainted, in any court of oyer and terminer within this state by verdict of a jury, or confession of the party offending, or being indicted thereof shall stand mute, or not directly answer to the indictment, or shall peremptorily challenge more than the number of twenty persons legally returned to be of the jury for the trial of such offender, shall be adjudged a felon, and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit, loan office certificates or bills of exchange, by altering the denomination

thereof with design to increase the value of such bills, certificates or bills of exchange, or shall utter such bills, certificates, or bills of exchange, knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be therefore legally convicted in any court of record in this state, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory and have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory, and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on; and, moreover, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of two thousand pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania, to be levied on his or her lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one moiety to the use of the state and the other moiety to the discoverer, and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of prosecution, and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges and to pay the forfeiture aforesaid in such case the offender shall, by order of the court, where he or she shall be convicted, be sold as a servant, for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction.

[Section II.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall, within this state, prepare or make any paper of the similitude or likeness of the paper prepared or made for and used by the Congress of the United States of America, or the person or persons employed by them for the purpose of striking their paper bills of credit, continental loan office certificates or continental bills of exchange upon, and on which the same are or shall be struck, printed or made; or if any person or persons shall, within this state prepare or make any paper of the similitude or likeness of the paper prepared or made for and used by the legislative authority of this state for the purpose of striking their paper money upon, and on which the same is or shall be printed and made, and shall give, sell, deliver or otherwise employ or willingly suffer the same to be taken by or delivered or otherwise disposed of to any person or persons whomsoever, except to Congress or to the legislature of this state, or of some other of the United States or to their order or the

order of some person or persons authorized by them respectively; he, she or they, being legally convicted thereof in any court of record in this state shall be imprisoned at the discretion of the court and moreover shall forfeit all his, her or their goods and chattels and one moiety of the lands to the use of this commonwealth.

[Section III.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall take and prosecute any of the hereinbefore mentioned felons to conviction within this state, upon every such conviction and procuring a certificate thereof under the hands of the judges before whom the conviction shall be, or either of them, which the said judges are hereby directed and required to give, such person or persons shall receive of the treasurer of this commonwealth the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of this state, which the said treasurer is hereby directed and required to pay out of the public money in his hands, and the same shall be allowed to him at the settlement of his accounts.

Passed November 26, 1779. See the notes to the ordinance of the First Constitutional Convention, passed August 1, 1776, Chapter 728, and the Act of Assembly passed January 29, 1777, Chapter 738.

CHAPTER DCCCLXX.

AN ACT FOR THE EFFECTUAL SUPPRESSION OF PUBLIC AUCTIONS AND VENDUES; AND TO PROHIBIT MALE PERSONS, CAPABLE OF BEARING ARMS FROM BEING PEDDLERS OR HAWKERS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the practice of selling goods and merchandises by public auction or vendue in the present embarrassed state of commerce occasioned by the war now carrying on between the United States of America and Great Britain hath been made use of as a device for enhancing the prices of commodities and of depreciating the bills of credit of this state and of the United States of America:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas the restrictions and prohibitions heretofore laid upon sales by public auction or vendue have not proved effectual: