

[Section III.] (Section VI, P. L.) Provided always, and it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no claim for any ship or vessel or provisions seized, or pretended to be seized, in pursuance of this act shall be admitted unless security be first entered for the payment of all costs in case such seizure be condemned; and that no suit or action against the officer or person or persons making such seizure or his or their assistants shall lie unless such suit or action be brought within three months after cause shall be given.

Passed February 28, 1780. See the notes to the Acts of Assembly passed January 2, 1778, Chapter 779; November 17, 1778, Chapter 817; and the Acts of Assembly passed September 22, 1780, Chapter 917; December 22, 1780, Chapter 922; February 27, 1781, Chapter 928; June 7, 1781, Chapter 943. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 328, &c.

CHAPTER DCCCLXXVII.

AN ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS ERECTED UPON THE LANDS OF DIVERS INHABITANTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, FOR THE USE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND VESTING SUCH LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS, IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PRESENT WAR AND TO PUNISH PERSONS FOR WASTE OR TRESPASSES MADE, OR COMMITTED THEREON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, in the unsettled state of public affairs during the war with Great Britain the necessities of the United Colonies or States induced their officers to take possession of the lands of divers persons, inhabitants of this commonwealth, for public use, and have, at the public expense, erected thereon barracks, hospitals, stables, storehouses and other buildings:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, the honorable the Congress of the United States of America, by their resolve dated the twenty-third of July last, have recommended that suitable provision be made by a law for preserving the same buildings and for punishing those who shall seize upon or injure the same, and in some instances vest the ground on which such buildings are erected in the United States:

[Section I.] (Section III, 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 all and every the buildings aforesaid, with so much of the land adjoining as may be necessary for the purpose for which such buildings were erected be vested in the United States during the war, and that the said United States be fully authorized and empowered to sue and maintain any action or actions at law against all and every person or persons who shall commit any waste or trespass thereon within this commonwealth.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act shall extend to the justifying any entry made, or possession taken of the lands or real estate of any person or persons within this commonwealth, without the consent of the owner, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, or to vest the same land so entered upon or possessed since that time in the said United States.

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whensoever in any case it shall or may be found convenient or proper to remove any of the said buildings which are removable, the United States, or their officers duly appointed, shall and may be fully authorized so to do, whether the same buildings were erected before the said first of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine or since, and that in all cases where the same building shall be so removed, all title, interest and property of the said United States of, in and to the lands whereon the said buildings shall have been erected shall from thenceforth cease and determine.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where the title of the lands are in and by this act vested in the United States during the war, the original owner or owners of the land, or the tenant or tenants, shall receive from the United States a reasonable rent for the same, according to the valuation of the said lands, exclusive of the same buildings, to be ap-

praised by three indifferent appraisers, on oath or affirmation, one of whom shall be chosen by the United States, or their officer, one by the said owner or owners, and a third by the two so as aforesaid chosen; and that in case of the refusal of the United States, or their officer, to choose, the owner or owners shall and may, after full notice given, apply to the nearest justice of the peace of this state to choose a proper person on the part of the said United States, who is hereby empowered and enjoined so to do, and the two persons so chosen shall choose a third.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the termination of the present war with Great Britain, it shall and may be lawful to and for the United States, or their officers, duly authorized, in all cases where the said buildings are no longer necessary or where the owner will not agree to proper terms for continuing the same buildings, to remove the same, or pull down and remove the materials, and the same to sell and dispose of or to sell the same buildings as they then stand to the owner or owners of the land or any other person or persons, according as to them shall seem most advantageous.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the United States of America, by the name aforesaid, shall be able and capable, within this commonwealth, now and at all times hereafter to purchase, take and hold lands, houses, hereditaments and real estates for the purpose of erecting and maintaining necessary public buildings thereon, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, release, enfeoffment, alienation or devise, of all or any person or persons whatsoever able and capable to make the same, and that the same shall be and remain subject to the disposition and appropriation of the honorable Congress of the United States of America, according to such estate and estates therein as in and by the grant or conveyance thereof shall or may be specified and contained.

Passed February 28, 1780. See the Acts of Assembly passed September 14, 1789, Chapter 1434; September 28, 1789, Chapter 1453; April 15, 1795, Chapter 1338; February 1, 1796, Chapter 1869; March 23, 1796, Chapter 1885. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p, 329, &c.