

may be in like circumstances, shall retain, possess and hold their slaves, anything in the act for the gradual abolition of slavery passed the first day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, to the contrary notwithstanding.

(Section III, P. L.) Provided always, That the owner or owners of such slaves, his or their lawful attorney, shall, in six months from the passing of this act, or in six months after their arrival in this state, as the case may be, register said slaves in manner and form directed in the fifth section of the act above mentioned for the gradual abolition of slavery. And be it further provided, That such slaves shall not be aliened or sold to any inhabitant nor retained in this state as slaves longer than six months after the conclusion of the present war with Great Britain.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it also provided and declared, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed, construed or taken to enslave any person or persons who have been emancipated or freed under or by virtue of the act aforesaid.

Passed October 1, 1781. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 459, etc.

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#### CHAPTER CMLIV.

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##### AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE OF JACOB BILLMEYER WITH HIS WIFE MARY BILLMEYER LATE MARY EICHELBERGER.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, Jacob Billmeyer, of the town of York, in the state of Pennsylvania, conveyancer, hath presented a petition to this house, setting forth that his wife Mary, about eight years since, eloped from his bed and board, without any reasonable cause, and ever since continued to absent herself from his bed and board; and that in the month of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, she, the said Mary, became acquainted with a certain William Cole, with whom she intermarried and cohabited,

and afterwards eloped out of this state, and hath borne a child or children to the said William Cole; and praying leave to bring in a bill for the dissolution of said marriage after due notice given:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas, it appears to this house that the facts alleged in the said petition are true:

And whereas, this house did, by their resolve of the tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, give permission to the said Jacob Billmeyer to bring in a bill to divorce him from his said wife Mary, agreeable to the prayer of his said petition, he, the said Jacob Billmeyer, giving previous notice of his design and this permission, at least two months in the public newspaper printed in the city of Philadelphia, entitled "The Pennsylvania Gazette and Weekly Advertiser:"

And whereas, it hath been sufficiently proved to this house that the said notice hath been given:

Therefore:

[Section I.] (Section III, 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 the marriage of the said Jacob Billmeyer with the said Mary be and the same is hereby declared to be dissolved and annulled to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever. And the said Jacob Billmeyer and the said Mary shall be, and they are, hereby henceforth, respectively declared to be separated, set free and totally discharged from their matrimonial contract and from all duties and obligations to each other as husband and wife, as fully, effectually and absolutely, to all intents and purposes, as if they had never been joined in matrimony or by any other contract whatsoever, any law, usage or custom to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed October 1, 1781. Recorded L. B. No. 1, p. 460, etc.