

CHAPTER CMLVI.

AN ACT¹ FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIERS OF THIS STATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, the repeated incursions and depredations of the savage allies of the King of Great Britain, in conjunction with his forces, have been carried on for some years past on the frontiers of this state, to the great injury of that part of Northampton county which lies beyond the mountains, and also the counties of Bedford, Northumberland, Westmoreland and Washington, and the district or township of Armagh, in Cumberland county:

(Section II, P. L.) For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] 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 one company in addition to the four companies already ordered to be raised by a resolve of the house of assembly of the twenty-third day of December, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, be immediately raised, completed and equipped, to serve during the present war, or until discharged, each company to consist of one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer and sixty privates, which five companies are to be completed, paid, clothed, victualed and otherwise provided for and rewarded with lands at the end of the war as the other troops in the service of the United States and belonging to this state are and shall be under the direction of the supreme executive council of this state for the time being, for the defense of the said frontiers.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the supreme executive council shall appoint and commission the additional officers of said

¹ The original roll of this act is missing; and therefore it has been compared with the copy in the Act Books.

corps, to be taken from those of the Pennsylvania line who are now, or hereafter may be on half pay; and shall pay to the officers, or any other person enlisting any able-bodied recruit, the sum of thirty shillings as soon as he shall be attested and have passed muster; and shall, over and above the clothing, rations and other emoluments mentioned in the foregoing clause to be given to each soldier, as therein directed, pay the sum of six pounds bounty to each recruit, one-third part thereof at the time of enlistment, and the remaining two-thirds when they shall severally pass muster as aforesaid.

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas, such incursions and depre-
dations of the enemy are often so sudden and violent as to require the immediate exertion of the inhabitants of the said counties and frontiers, in order to put a stop to the enemy's penetrating into the said counties and district, and also to pursue, overtake, waylay and discover and otherwise annoy them in their retreat:

[Section III.] Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as often as such incursions and depredations shall happen to be made, or as often as there shall be sufficient reason to apprehend such shall be the design of the enemy, that then and in such case, and in such case only, such of the inhabitants as will from time to time go in pursuit of the enemy, in order to overtake and waylay them, or to discover their tracks and approaches, shall be entitled to militia pay and rations of provisions while it shall appear they were necessarily employed in such service. Provided always, That before such pay is ordered to be made, the lieutenant of the respective county, on the oath or affirmation of one or more of the party so serving, shall certify the time and nature of the service in which he or they have been so employed and the necessity of a party or parties going on such service. And the supreme executive council are hereby authorized and empowered to draw on the treasury of this state from time to time for such sum or sums as shall be necessary for the purposes aforesaid.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the forces raised, or to be raised, under and by virtue of this act, shall be subject to and

bound by the same rules and regulations as the federal army of the United States.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the supreme executive council be empowered, and they are hereby empowered, to order the whole or part of the said troops on any expedition which they may deem necessary against the savages or other enemies bordering on the frontiers of this state.

(Section VII, P. L.) And whereas, by such incursions and depredations, a great part of the inhabitants of the said frontiers have been driven from their habitations and otherwise much distressed and thereby rendered unable to pay the public dues:

[Section VI.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the commissioners of the said counties, respectively, or any two of them, and they are hereby enjoined and required, in all cases wherein the inhabitants have been obliged by the enemy to abandon their habitations, so that no proper return can be obtained of their property as pointed out by law, to obtain such [account] by the books or rolls of the last valuation of property, or by such other ways and means as to them shall seem just and satisfactory, and shall thereupon proceed to value and levy the same, in just proportion to the other parts of the counties, respectively, as nearly as may be.

[Section VII.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, are hereby authorized and required to exonerate and discharge such of the taxable inhabitants as shall make sufficient proofs or for and in behalf of whom satisfactory evidence shall appear to the said commissioners, respectively, of their having been driven off and dispossessed of their settlements or otherwise distressed by means of the enemy, from the payment of all or such part as to them shall seem just and reasonable, as well of the taxes already laid and assessed on the said inhabitants, since the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, as the taxes which may be laid as aforesaid during the continuance of the present distressed state of the counties aforesaid.

(Section IX, P. L.) And whereas a considerable number of the said inhabitants have, with great courage and fortitude, stood their ground, on the verge of the frontiers, at the hazard of their lives, and thereby formed in some measure a barrier to the flying inhabitants and eventually prevented the enemy from penetrating into the interior parts of the state:

[Section VIII.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That for the greater encouragement of such as have stood, and will hereafter so stay on their plantations, at the verge of the frontiers, at the hazard of their lives, that it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners, in like manner as aforesaid, to exonerate and discharge from the payment of taxes, either in whole or in part, as shall seem to them just and reasonable, all such as have so stood and will hereafter in like manner stand in defense of the frontiers.

[Section IX.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any two of them, shall transmit without delay to the general assembly a list of the names of the persons so exonerated, stating the amount of the sum or sums so remitted, that the deficiencies which may arise in raising the quotas of the said counties may be made good and provided for in levying and raising the other taxes of the state.

Passed December 22, 1781. See the Act of Assembly passed January 27, 1797, Chapter 1913.

CHAPTER CMLVII.

AN ACT FOR THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas, those who dedicate their time and abilities to the service of the public ought to receive a reasonable compensation:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of