

tees had consented and agreed thereto; also, that all the proceedings of the said trustees, or a majority of them, shall, from time to time, be fairly entered in a book or books to be kept for the purpose by the president of the trustees for the time being, which book or books, together with the seal of the said corporation, and all charters, deeds and writings whatsoever, any way belonging to the said corporations shall be delivered over by the former president to the president of the said trustees newly elected, as such presidents shall hereafter successively from time to time be elected.

[Section XII.] (Section XIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every clause, sentence and article herein contained shall be, in all things, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in law unto the said corporation and community and their successors forever, according to the true intent and meaning hereof; and that in all things it shall be construed, taken and expounded most benignly and for the greatest advantage and profit of the trustees of the said Dutch Reformed church of Northampton and Southampton, in the county of Bucks aforesaid, and their successors forever, notwithstanding any defect, default or imperfection may be found therein, or any other cause or thing whatsoever.

Passed September 20, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 21, etc.

CHAPTER CMXCIV.

AN ACT FOR PROCURING AN ESTIMATE OF THE DAMAGES, SUSTAINED BY THE INHABITANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA, FROM THE TROOPS AND ADHERENTS OF THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN DURING THE PRESENT WAR.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas great damages of the most wanton nature have been committed by the armies of the King of Great Britain, or their adherents, within the territory of the United States of North America, unwarranted by the practice of civ-

ilized nations, and only to be accounted for from the vindictive spirit of the said king and his officers:

And whereas, an accurate account and estimate of such damages, more especially the waste and destruction of property, may be very useful to the people of the United States of America in forming a future treaty of peace, and in the meantime may serve to exhibit in a true light to the nations of Europe the conduct of the said king, his ministers, officers and adherents:

(Section II, P. L.) To the end, therefore, that proper measures may be taken to ascertain the damages aforesaid, which have been done to the citizens and inhabitants of Pennsylvania in the course of the present war within this state:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That every county within this state which has been invaded by the armies, soldiers or the adherents of the King of Great Britain, the commissioners of every such county, or any two of them, shall, without delay, meet together, each within their county, and issue directions to the assessors of the respective townships, wards or districts within such county where they have reason to believe any such damage hath been done, to notify the inhabitants thereof by at least three written notices, to furnish accounts and estimates of the damages, waste, spoil and destruction which hath been done and committed as aforesaid, upon the property, real or personal, within the same township, ward or district since the eighteenth day of April, which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and the same accounts and estimates to transmit to the said commissioners without delay. And if any person or persons shall refuse or neglect to make out such accounts and estimates, the said assessors of the township, ward or district shall, from their own knowledge and by any other reasonable and lawful methods, take and render such an account and estimate of all damage done or committed as aforesaid.

(Section III, P. L.) Provided always, That all such accounts and estimates to be made out and transmitted as aforesaid

shall contain a narrative of the time and circumstances and, if in the power of the person aggrieved, the names of the general or other officer or adherent of the enemy by whom the damage in any case was done, or under whose orders the army, detachment, party or persons committing the same acted at that time, and also the name and addition of the person or persons whose property was so damaged or destroyed, and that all such accounts and estimates be made in current money, upon oath or affirmation of the sufferer, or of others having knowledge concerning the same; and that in every case it be set forth whether the party injured hath received any satisfaction for his loss and by whom the same was given.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, having obtained the said accounts and estimates from the assessors of the several townships, wards and districts, shall proceed to inspect and register the same in a book to be provided for that purpose, distinguishing the district and townships, and entering those of each place together; and if any account and estimate be imperfect or not sufficiently verified and established, the said commissioners shall have power and they, or any two of them, are hereby authorized to summon and compel any person, whose evidence they shall think necessary, to appear before them at the day and place appointed, to be examined upon oath or affirmation concerning any damage [or] injury as aforesaid; and the said commissioners shall, upon registering as aforesaid, without delay, deliver over and transmit to the supreme executive council all and every of the original accounts, together with a copy of the register aforesaid.

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all losses of servants, negro and mulatto slaves who have been deluded and carried away by the enemies of the United States, and which have not been recovered or recompensed, shall be comprehended within the accounts and estimates aforesaid; and that the commissioners and assessors of any county, which hath not been invaded as aforesaid, shall nevertheless inquire after and procure accounts and estimates of any damages suffered by the loss of such ser-

vants and slaves as is hereinbefore directed as to other property.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority of the aforesaid, That the charges and expenses of executing this act, as to the pay of the said commissioners and assessors shall be as in other cases, and that witnesses shall be rewarded for their loss of time and trouble, as witnesses summoned to appear in the courts of quarter sessions of the peace; and the said charges and expenses shall be defrayed by the commonwealth, but paid in the first instance out of the moneys in the hands of the treasurer of the county for county rates and levies upon orders drawn by the commissioners of the proper county.

Passed September 21, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 24, etc.

CHAPTER CMXCV.

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ENABLE THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO NEGOTIATE SUCH LOANS, AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROCURE A SUFFICIENT SUM OF MONEY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIERS OF THIS STATE AND THE SUPPORT OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the supreme executive council have not negotiated a loan of money by virtue of the act of assembly, entitled "An act to enable the supreme executive council to negotiate such loans, as may be necessary to procure a sufficient sum of money for the defense of the frontiers of this state and support of civil government,"¹ and it being inexpedient that the said act should any longer remain in force, the intention thereof being otherwise in part supplied by this house:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the

¹ Passed April 15, 1782, Chapter 983.