

by the authority of the same, That every writ and process whatever granted or issued or which may hereafter be granted or issued for any owner or owners, claimant or claimants, against any person being now an inhabitant on said lands at Wyoming, in order to disposes any of the said inhabitants or settlers of the lands or tenements in his, her or their occupancy, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be stayed; and on motion all further proceedings thereon shall be quashed by the court to which such writ shall be returnable, until the report of the said commissioners shall be laid before this house, and order shall be taken thereupon.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall be and continue in force until the end of the next sitting of general assembly and no longer.

Passed March 13, 1783. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 57, etc. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed September 9, 1783, Chapter 1030.

CHAPTER MXIV.

AN ACT TO PREVENT AND DISCOURAGE THE DESERTION OF SAILORS FROM THE FLEETS OF HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the laws to prevent desertion from the fleets of his most Christian Majesty have hitherto been found defective.

[Section I.] 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 same, That any person or persons within this commonwealth, who shall promote or encourage the desertion of any sailor from any ship or vessel of war belonging to his most Christian Majesty, or shall harbor or conceal any deserter, knowing him to be such, from any of the ships or vessels as aforesaid, every such person so of-

fending shall forfeit and pay for every such offense the sum of thirty pounds for the use and support of government.

[Section II] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any one justice of the peace of the city of Philadelphia, or of any county within this state, and they and each of them are severally and respectively authorized and strictly enjoined and required, upon any complaint exhibited before any justice as aforesaid of any offense committed contrary to this act, to issue process in nature of a summons, or a warrant under his hand and seal (according to the discretion of the said justice) against the person or persons so accused; and upon his or their appearance, or contempt, he shall call to his assistance one other justice and proceed to an examination of the matters of fact, and upon due proof thereof either by the confession of the party, or by the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, they shall give judgment or sentence for the above mentioned sum of thirty pounds, and issue an execution for the same against the goods and chattels, and for want of sufficient distress to imprison the party offending for the space of three months, or until satisfaction be made.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That wherever it shall appear to any justice as aforesaid, on oath or affirmation of one or more credible witnesses, that there is ground to suspect that any sailor or sailors deserting as aforesaid, are harbored or concealed on board any ship or vessel within the jurisdiction of this commonwealth, it shall be lawful for the said justice and he is hereby enjoined to issue his warrant, authorizing and commanding the sheriff of the county or the under sheriff (in case of the absence or sickness of the high sheriff) to enter in the daytime on board any such ship or vessel, in which it hath been alleged the sailor or sailors as aforesaid deserting are harbored or concealed, and to make search for the said sailor or sailors, and if necessity requires, to break open any hatch way, door, room or cabin on board said ship or vessel, to discover the said sailor or sailors, and if any such sailor or sailors shall be found on board any ship or vessel so searched, it shall be lawful for the said sheriff or

his under sheriff, as the case may be, and they are hereby respectively required to seize and apprehend the said sailor or sailors and to carry him or them before the justice who issued the warrant, who shall order him or them forthwith to be delivered to the captain or other officer commanding the ship or vessel from which the said sailor or sailors have deserted.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the party or parties find him or themselves aggrieved by the sentence or judgment of the said justices, acting under the authority of this act, he or they, on giving sufficient security, may appeal to the justices of the peace of the next court of quarter sessions to be held for the city or county where the sentence shall be given, which court is hereby authorized to hear and determine the same, and whose judgment shall be final therein, and not removable by certiorari or any other writ whatever.

Passed March 17, 1783. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 58, etc.

CHAPTER MXV.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF JOSEPH JUDSON, JAMES ROBINSON AND JAMES LEES, INSOLVENT DEBTORS, CONFINED IN THE OLD GAOL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas Joseph Judson, James Robinson and James Lees, prisoners confined in the gaol of the city and county of Philadelphia for debt, by their petitions to this house, have severally and respectively set forth, that by reason of divers losses and misfortunes, they are wholly unable to satisfy their several and respective creditors, and have prayed that they may be discharged from further confinement; and it appearing that the said Joseph Judson, James Robinson and James Lees, have fully complied with the directions of this house, in giving proper notice in the newspapers of their several applications, and the prayer of their said petitions being found reasonable and just: