

his marriage with the said Margaret Alexander; and the said general assembly being willing to ascertain the truth of said facts, that justice may be done in the premises, and being thoroughly convinced of the truth of the said facts, on a proper and legal examination having taken place, in the presence of the said parties, before a committee of the late general assembly, who have reported the testimony before them:

[Section I.] (Section II, 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 the marriage of the said John Alexander with the said Margaret Alexander be, and the same is hereby declared to be dissolved and annulled to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and the said John Alexander and Margaret Alexander 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 in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed March 15, 1784. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 266, etc.

CHAPTER MLXXVIII.

A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR MAKING THE RIVER SCHUYLKILL NAVIGABLE, AND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FISH IN THE SAID RIVER," AND TO TWO SUPPLEMENTS TO THE SAME ACT.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the improving the navigation of the river Schuylkill, so as to make it passable at all times, will be very advantageous to the poor, greatly promote the spirit of industry and be beneficial to a considerable part of this state, by enabling the inhabitants to bring their produce to market,

for furnishing the country adjoining the same river, and the city of Philadelphia with coal, masts, spars, boards, scantling and many other necessary and useful articles:

And whereas divers inhabitants of this state have by their petitions prayed that some effectual steps may be taken to make the same river navigable, and the laws heretofore enacted being inadequate for the purpose aforesaid, for want of a proper fund, to be employed by commissioners therein named:

[Section I.] (Section II, 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 David Rittenhouse, Lindsey Coats, Anthony Levering, John Jones, of the Gulph Mill, Robert Curry, Isaac Potts, Joseph Paul, David Thomas, of Providence, Matthias Pennebaker, James Hockley, John Brooks, Jacob Light, Abraham Lincoln, Mordecai Miller, John Bishop, George Gardiner, John Mears, Charles Shoemaker, George Miller, Henry Haller, Samuel Baird and Frederick Cleckner, shall be and they are hereby constituted and appointed commissioners for clearing the navigation of the said river, and to carry all and singular the powers, rights, authorities and jurisdictions severally given and granted to certain different sets of commissioners by the three several acts of assembly, the titles whereof are herein referred to, the first of them passed the fourteenth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act for making the river Schuylkill navigable, and for the preservation of the fish in the said river,"¹ the second passed the twenty-sixth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, and entitled "A supplement to the act, entitled 'An act for making the river Schuylkill navigable, and for the preservation of the fish in the said river,'"² and the third and last law, passed the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, entitled "A further supplement to the act, entitled 'An act for making the river Schuylkill navigable and for the preservation of the fish in the said river,'"³ and that the said David Rittenhouse, Lindsey

¹ Passed March 14, 1761, Chapter 465.

² Passed February 26, 1783, Chapter 680.

³ Passed March 24, 1781, Chapter 930.

Coats, Anthony Levering, John Jones, of the Gulph Mill, Robert Curry, Isaac Potts, Joseph Paul, David Thomas, of Providence, Matthias Pennebaker, James Hockley, John Brooks, Jacob Light, Abraham Lincoln, Mordecai Miller, John Bishop, George Gardiner, John Mears, Charles Shoemaker, George Miller, Henry Haller, Samuel Baird and Frederick Cleckner, shall be henceforward taken and considered as the only commissioners for clearing the navigation of the same river, with all the powers, rights, authorities and jurisdictions in the act and supplements aforesaid, and the commissioners in the said supplement passed the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, except such as are re-appointed by this act, shall cease to exercise any power, right, authority or jurisdiction, under their said appointment in the last supplement aforesaid, and the said commissioners by this act appointed shall ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive all the moneys, goods, securities and effects, which the said commissioners have or are entitled to, in right of their appointment aforesaid, and make use of them for the purpose in this act mentioned.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the penalty of twenty pounds mentioned in the third section of the first act aforesaid, entitled "An act for making the river Schuylkill navigable, and for the preservation of the fish in the said river:" and the fourth section of the act last aforesaid, entitled "A further supplement to the act, entitled "An act for making the river Schuylkill navigable, and for the preservation of the fish in the said river," shall be recovered by warrant, before the chief justice or either of the assistant justices of the supreme court, or before any justice of the courts of common pleas or of the quarter sessions of the peace who shall reside in the county wherein or adjacent to which the offenses described in the third and fourth sections aforesaid, shall be committed, the same penalty, when recovered, shall be for the sole use of the informer.

And that the several commissioners in this act named shall attend to the duties of their appointment under this act, and the act and supplements aforesaid:

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That each commissioner or commissioners in this act named shall take such part of Schuylkill for the purpose of clearing, as is herein specially directed.

From the tide water below the falls, to Spring mill, David Rittenhouse, Lindsey Coats, Anthony Levering and John Jones, of the Gulph mill.

From thence to the mouth of Valley creek, Robert Curry, Isaac Potts and Poseph Paul.

From thence to the mouth of Mingo creek, David Thomas, of Providence, and Matthias Pennebaker.

From thence to Berks county line, James Hockley, John Brooks and Jacob Light.

From thence to Beidler's mill, Abraham Lincoln and Mordecai Miller.

From thence to the mouth of Tulpehocken creek, John Bishop and George Gardiner.

From thence to the mouth of Maiden creek; John Mears.

From thence to the mouth of Tamaqua creek, Charles Shoemaker and George Miller.

From thence to the coal mines on Schuylkill at Basler's saw-mill Henry Haller, Samuel Baird and Frederick Cleckner.

(Section V, P. L.) And should any of the commissioners aforesaid die, or refuse to act before completing the business aforesaid, the majority of the said commissioners shall appoint other person or persons for executing the powers, rights, authorities and jurisdictions of this act, who when appointed, and after acceptance of their appointment, shall receive the same wages and be under the same regulations with the other commissioners under this act.

[Section IV.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners in this act mentioned are hereby required and enjoined to meet at the inn of Jacob Witz, in Pottstown, Philadelphia county, at ten o'clock in the morning on the first Tuesday in May next, and when a majority of such commissioners shall have assembled, they shall agree on some general plan for executing the powers, rights, authorities and jurisdictions under this act, and the act and two

supplements aforesaid, which said plan as far as situation and circumstances concur, shall be directory to each other, in clearing said river, and shall also meet at the same time of day and place on the first Tuesday in June, July, August, September and October next, and at such meetings shall give a faithful account in writing to each other of the sums of money they have severally expended in the work aforesaid, and of the part of such work which they have completed, and in case any of the commissioners shall neglect or refuse to attend at any of the meetings aforesaid, on the days and times aforesaid, and at the place aforesaid, he shall pay the fine of five pounds, to be recovered by any informer prosecuting for the same, and for the use of such informer, and in the same manner as the twenty pounds aforesaid, in the acts aforesaid, shall be recovered, and the chief justice and the justices aforesaid, before whom the fine shall be recovered, are hereby respectively empowered to judge of the sufficiency or insufficiency of the excuse of such commissioner and proceed accordingly;

And that the navigation of the said river may be obtained at as little expense as possible.

[Section V.] (Section VII, P. L.) Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Samuel Potts, of Pottstown, is hereby appointed treasurer for the said board of commissioners, who is authorized and empowered to draw out of the bank of North America, all such sums of money as shall be deposited in the same for the purpose of improving the navigation of the said river, by the managers of the public lottery of this state, which same Samuel Potts shall pay the drafts on him made by each of the same commissioners aforesaid, who for such payment shall be allowed ten shillings in the hundred pounds and no more, that the said Samuel Potts, and each of the said commissioners shall be accountable for the sum which he or they severally shall receive, and for which sums so received as aforesaid, together with the goods, securities, moneys and other effects, received from the commissioners under the supplement aforesaid, passed the twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, they shall account for to the comptroller-general of this state in the month of October next,

and that each commissioner shall, whilst on the business aforesaid, receive for his services seven shillings and six pence per diem, and no more, to be paid by the said Samuel Potts.

[Section VI.] (Section VIII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the treasurer aforesaid, shall, before he enters on the duties of his office, become bound to the president in council, with two sufficient securities in the sum of five thousand pounds, conditioned for the true and faithful performance of his trust.

[Section VII.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said recited act and the two supplements aforesaid, and every part and parcel thereof, except such parts as are herein altered or amended, shall be taken to be and remain in full force, virtue and effect, anything herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed March 15, 1784. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 267, etc. See the note to the Act of Assembly passed March 14, 1761, Chapter 465.

CHAPTER MLXXIX.

AN ACT FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF LEARNING, BY VESTING A RIGHT TO THE COPIES OF PRINTED BOOKS IN THE AUTHORS OR PURCHASERS OF SUCH COPIES, DURING THE TIME THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the honorable the Congress of the United States, by their resolution of the second day of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, have recommended to the several states to secure to the authors or publishers of any new books not hitherto printed, being citizens of the United States, and to their executors, administrators and assigns, the copy right of such books for a certain time:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas printers, booksellers and other persons have heretofore frequently taken the liberty of printing, reprinting and publishing or causing to be reprinted and