

ber last, to the time of payment or offer of payment by the supreme executive council of the said fifteen thousand pounds, such offer of payment shall be by calling upon the persons entitled to receive the said sum of fifteen thousand pounds to appear in person or by [his or their] lawful attorney [or attorneys] by notice to that effect, published in three successive weekly newspapers of Philadelphia; ten days after the last of which notices all interest upon the said sum shall cease.

Passed February 10, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 409, etc. See the Act of Assembly passed March 28, 1787, Chapter 1284.

CHAPTER MCXXXI.

AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE OF NATHANIEL IRWIN AND MARTHA, HIS WIFE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas Nathaniel Irwin, of the township of Warrington and county of Bucks, minister of the gospel, hath applied to this general assembly by petition, therein setting forth that his wife Martha hath been guilty of adultery and by such and other parts of her conduct has induced him to pray the legislature to grant him a divorce from her the said Martha:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas by authenticated copies of the records of two several courts of justice as well as by other evidence the house are fully convinced the said Martha Irwin hath been guilty of the crime with which she is charged in said petition:

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 Nathaniel Irwin with the said Martha Irwin be dissolved, and it is accord-

ingly hereby dissolved and declared to be null and void as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the same had never been contracted.

Passed February 17, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 412, etc.

CHAPTER MCXXXII.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER SECURING PERSONAL LIBERTY AND PREVENTING WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENTS.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas personal liberty is a principal blessing derived from free constitutions of government and certain methods of proceeding should be prescribed so that all wrongful restraints thereof may be easily and speedily redressed:

[Section I.] 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 if any person shall be or stand committed or detained for any criminal or supposed criminal matter unless for treason or felony the species whereof is plainly and fully set forth in the warrant of commitment in vacation time and out of term it shall and may be lawful to and for the person so committed or detained or any one on his or her behalf to appeal or complain to any judge of the supreme court or to the president of the court of common pleas for the county within which the person is so committed or detained and such judge or justice upon view of the copy or copies of the warrant or warrants of commitment or detainer or otherwise upon oath or affirmation legally made that such copy or copies were denied to be given by the person or persons in whose custody the prisoner is detained is hereby authorized and required upon request made in writing by such prisoner or any person on his or her behalf attested and subscribed by two witnesses who were present at the delivery of the same to award and grant an habeas corpus