

CHAPTER CCLII.

AN ACT TO SUSPEND AN ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, ENTITLED "A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO ENABLE WILLIAM CLINGAN, THOMAS BULL, JOHN KINKEAD, ROGER KIRK, JOHN SELLERS, JOHN WILSON AND JOSEPH DAVIS TO BUILD A NEW COURT HOUSE AND PRISON IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER, AND SELL THE OLD COURT HOUSE AND PRISON IN THE BOROUGH OF CHESTER.'" ¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it appears from a variety of petitions remonstrances, memorials and other papers presented to and laid before the late and present house of assembly by a very large number of respectable inhabitants of the county of Chester that a very great and general dissatisfaction and uneasiness prevails and subsists among the greater part of the good people of the said county with the said act and the intended removal of the seat of justice from the ancient borough of Chester to the Turkshead in Goshen township, in the same county, the place mentioned in the said recited act, and with the erection of a court house and prison there; and with the unlimited, dangerous and unprecedented powers claimed by the commissioners under the said act and have humbly prayed that the said recited act and the act to which the same is a supplement may be repealed or suspended:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas it is but just and reasonable that the grievances which the good people of the said county complain of should be redressed;

Therefore in order to restore tranquility to the said county of Chester and to ease the minds of the good citizens and inhabitants thereof:

[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 said recited act, entitled "Sup-

¹ Passed March 22, 1784, Chapter 1087.

plement to an act, entitled 'An act to enable William Clingan, Thomas Bull, John Kinkead, Roger Kirk, John Sellers, John Wilson and Joseph Davis, to build a new court house and prison in the county of Chester, and sell the old court house and prison in the borough of Chester,'"¹ passed on the twenty-second day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four and every article, clause, matter and thing therein, and in the act to which the same is a supplement, passed on the twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, shall be and the same is and are hereby declared to be suspended to all intents and purposes, and that the courts of justice to be held after the passing of this act in and for the said county of Chester shall sit and be held in the said borough of Chester in the same manner as they were and were used and accustomed to before the making the said acts hereby suspended or either of them, anything therein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding, and also that the public gaol or prison for the said county shall be and continue to be in the said borough of Chester in manner aforesaid.

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas it is but just that the necessary expenses which have hitherto been legally incurred under the said acts by the persons who were thereby authorized and appointed to proceed in purchasing the ground and erecting and building a new court house and prison shall after the accounts are liquidated and settled be re-imbursed and paid by the inhabitants of the said county of Chester;

To which end,

[Section II.] (Section V, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Robert Loller, esquire, George Smith, esquire, Jonathan Roberts, (Upper Merion), John Jones, (Gulph) and Doctor Robert Shannon, or any three of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized, appointed and empowered to adjust and settle the accounts and expenditures of all the moneys necessarily and legally laid out and expended by the persons so as aforesaid appointed by the above recited acts to purchase the ground and erect the said new court house and prison, and on the final settlement of said accounts shall report in writing

under their hands and seals to the commissioners of the said county of Chester the balance justly and legally due to the persons aforesaid, which balance the said county commissioners are hereby authorized and required to assess and levy on the inhabitants of the said county according to the directions of the act for raising county rates and levies.

Passed March 30, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 492. The act in the text was repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 18, 1786, Chapter 1215.

CHAPTER MCLIII.

AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE OF HENRY WILLIS WITH MARY, HIS WIFE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas Henry Willis of the state of Virginia by his petition hath represented that his wife, late Mary Ross (with whom he contracted matrimony in this state and who is now resident within the same) hath broken her marriage vows and committed the crime of adultery, and hath prayed that he may be divorced from the said Mary and their marriage dissolved: And whereas the facts set forth in the said petition have been fully proved by a conviction in a court of justice, a certificate of which hath been produced.

[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 from and after the passing of this act the marriage of the said Henry Willis with the said Mary his wife shall be and hereby is declared to be dissolved, annulled and made void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and the said Henry and the said Mary shall be and they are hereby respectively 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, as if the said contract of matrimony hath never been entered into by them.

Passed March 30, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 490.