

ment of offenders against the regulations and directions of the same are from the rise, which, since the enacting thereof, has happened in the prices of most of the necessaries of life, become too small to enforce obedience thereto:

And whereas offences against the same act are in some cases made cognizable before any justice of the peace and, the right of trial by jury is thereby infringed;

[Section III.] (Section VI, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all the specific penalties in money provided and declared by the same act shall henceforth in every case be double the sums therein set forth, and every person who shall be charged with offending against the act aforesaid or this act shall be prosecuted in the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the proper county and not in the summary way aforesaid.

[Section IV.] (Section VII, P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners to be appointed by virtue of this act shall every year hereafter before the fifteenth day of March within such year render to the comptroller-general of this state a particular account supported by the proper vouchers of all the sums of money which shall come to their hands respectively and of all sums of money which shall be expended by them in pursuance of this act for and during the year preceding, in order that the same may be adjusted, settled and allowed.

Passed March 31, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 493.

---

## CHAPTER MCLVI.

---

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE AGENT OR AGENTS OF HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY TO SUE FOR AND RECOVER IN A MORE SPEEDY WAY ANY DEBT OR DEMAND THAT MAY BE DUE TO THEM IN THIS STATE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the United States in general and this state in particular have received the most important assistance and numerous benefits from the friendship of his most

Christian Majesty, our great and generous ally, and during the course of the late war many large sums of money may have been necessarily entrusted to the different agents who have been employed in furnishing supplies to the fleets and armies of France, whilst employed in our aid and defence, and much time may be required, and many delays may be interposed in the ordinary course of judicial proceedings before the accounts can be liquidated and adjusted, where the agents so entrusted shall not voluntarily settle the same:

And whereas by the laws of this state provision has been made for granting speedy trials to such foreigners as may be sued in our courts and are about to depart and also that all such foreigners as are about to depart, and may have sued in our courts and shall sue in the same for any contract entered into since the tenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two:

And whereas justice and gratitude require that equal attention be paid to the interest of our generous benefactor his most Christian Majesty:

And whereas the United States in congress assembled by their resolution of the sixteenth day of December last past, upon the representation of the Charge des Affaires of his most Christian Majesty dated the first day of December last have recommended to the different states to pass such remedial laws on the subject aforesaid as their respective constitutions may permit:

[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 all actions and suits which may be commenced or depending in any court or courts within this state by the king of France either in the name of the said king or that of his legal representative or representatives for his use or benefit against any person or persons who shall be charged with having received the moneys of the said king, shall be prosecuted to trial and judgment without delay or the usual imparlances, and that to this end the said court or courts at any time after the return or returns of the *capias* or summons

or other process at the prayer of the plaintiff or plaintiffs be and they are hereby empowered and required to proceed to give rules in the said causes, to declare, plead and try within such time or times as may be consonant to justice and consistent with the most speedy trial, and the true intent and meaning of this present act.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all and every cases aforesaid, the said plaintiff or plaintiffs shall and may at his or their election or elections be entitled to commence his or their action or actions, suit or suits in the supreme court of this state in the first instance, and the said court shall proceed thereupon in like manner as herein before is directed, any law, usage or custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas it is necessary to the fulfilling the good purposes intended by this act that the agents entrusted by his most Christian Majesty with moneys as aforesaid who have employed and entrusted with moneys under them other agents who are accountable to them should have the like speedy remedy against those who are so employed and entrusted under them:

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all and every the cases last aforesaid whensoever any suit or suits shall be so as aforesaid commenced or depending by any agent or agents employed by the said king of France against any person or persons within this state employed under them as aforesaid, the same suit or suits shall be deemed and taken to be within the meaning of this present act and the plaintiff or plaintiffs therein shall be entitled to the like remedy and the same speedy trial as in and by this present act is intended and provided, and that in all and every [the] cases aforesaid, the court shall inquire into the nature of the suit or demand, and determine, whether the same be within the true intent and meaning of this present act, from the oath or affirmation of the party or parties who are plaintiff or plaintiffs in the said suit or his or their legal representative or representaives.

(Section VI, P. L.) And whereas other dealings and contracts

may have been made and entered into by and between such agent or agents of the said king of France and the person or persons so as aforesaid employed under him or them in their respective capacities other than as agent or agents or officers acting under the said king of such kind or nature as that the balances or moneys due from the one party to the other cannot lawfully or properly be pleaded nor offered in evidence either to increase the demand against any such under agent as aforesaid or in defalcation or diminution of the same, and it is just and reasonable that every such person who may have acted as under agent as aforesaid should have equal remedy by speedy trial and determination for any such separate dealings or contracts as may have arisen between such persons as have acted as agents to the said king of France.

[Section IV.] (Section VII, P. L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any such under agent as aforesaid against whom any demand shall be made for moneys due to the said king of France or his agent or agents on account of such under agency, to commence and prosecute his action or actions against any such superior agent or agents for any debt or demand which such under agent may have against such superior agent in any other capacity, and which cannot lawfully be pleaded or offered in evidence against, or in diminution of such demand of the superior agent as aforesaid, in such manner and form, and under such rules and regulations for speedy trial and judgment, according to justice and equity, as are herein before directed and authorized respecting suits commenced or depending against any such under agent; any law, usage or custom to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed April 2, 1785. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 494.