

## CHAPTER MCLXXII.

AN ACT FOR CONFIRMING A ROAD AND ESTABLISHING A FERRY AND  
ERECTING A BRIDGE ACROSS THE NESHAMINY CREEK.

(Section 1. P. L.) Whereas Charles Bessonnet of the borough of Bristol in the county of Bucks, and Gershom Johnson of the city of Philadelphia, proprietors of the stages from Philadelphia to Trenton on the New York road, by their petition to the legislature have set forth, That being actuated by principles of public good as well as their own private advantage, they have made a purchase of land for a public road or highway, forty feet wide beginning at the sixteen mile stone on the road already laid out from the city of Philadelphia to the borough of Bristol in Bucks county, and from thence along the old road, north forty-seven degrees east, forty perches to the intersection of the present road leading to Neshaminy ferry, and the southwest line of Joshua Vandegrift's land, thence on the same land north forty-seven degrees east, ninety-four perches, thence north twenty-six degrees east fifty-four perches to the north-east line of said Vandegrift's land, thence through land of William Allen, north seventy-two degrees and a quarter east, eighty-eight perches and eight-tenth parts of a perch, thence still through the same land, south seventy degrees east, eight perches to the water's edge at Neshaminy creek at high water mark, thence across the said Neshaminy creek south seventy-six degrees and three-quarters east, twenty-one perches to high water mark and a poplar tree, on the Bristol side thereof, thence on land of John Edgar, north eighty-three degrees and an half east, four hundred and thirty-seven perches, thence through land of Joseph Tomlinson, south seventy-nine degrees east, fifty-eight perches and eight-tenth parts of a perch to the old Ford road, leading from Neshaminy to Bristol, thence, on the said road south sixty-nine degrees east, one hundred and twenty-seven perches to the junction of the said Ford road and the road leading from Bristol to the present ferry over Neshaminy aforesaid, and from thence to the nineteen mile stone, on the road leading from

Philadelphia to Bristol south sixty-four degrees and an half east, thirty-two perches, making in all the distance of three miles and eight-tenth parts of a perch; with an intent of establishing a ferry or bridge across the said creek, and for which purpose they will build and run out wharves at the landing places on each side of the said creek, and build flats or boats to accommodate travellers for the present, at their own private costs and charges, until said bridge shall be finished, and therefore have prayed for a law for establishing the said ferry and bridge when built and vesting the premises in them their heirs and assigns, with liberty to take such toll or fees from travellers as may be thought reasonable and just, promising also, that if at any future day, the legislature should think proper to vest the said bridge proposed to be built, in the public, for the purpose of a free bridge, they will give up the said bridge upon their receiving a reasonable compensation for their trouble and expenses, to be estimated by indifferent persons chosen equally by the parties; and it being fit and right to encourage all laudable undertakings for the improvement of the ways and the good of the public:

Therefore,

[Section I.] (Section II. 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 property of the said ferry and bridge, when built, shall be vested in the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson, their heirs and assigns according to the form, true intent and meaning of the several deed or deeds of conveyance of the premises herein before recited and described, and subject to such limitations, restrictions and appointments as in and by the said deed or deeds are contained or expressed, and that the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson their heirs and assigns, shall and may demand and receive such rates for ferriage of travellers and others and such tolls for the passage across the said bridge, as shall or may be directed and appointed by the court of general quarter sessions of the peace in and for the county of Bucks, which court are hereby authorized and required from time to time to regulate, fix and appoint

the same, and in default of such regulation, to demand and receive reasonable ferriages and tolls.

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson, their heirs and assigns, to erect and build, maintain, support and repair the said bridge, and the aforesaid road, and to build and repair the said wharves at the place and in the manner herein before recited, and to proceed in all things according to the prayer of their petition herein before recited and the true intent and meaning of this act.

(Section IV. P. L.) Provided always, That the said bridge so to be erected and built shall be constructed in such manner and duly attended with sufficient persons to manage and direct the said bridge, so that the same shall be capable of being opened and shall be actually opened, by the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson their heirs and assigns from time to time, to admit shallops, flats and boats to pass and repass through the same without delay or obstruction.

[Section III.] (Section V. P. L.) Provided also, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whensoever at any time after the erection or building of the said bridge it shall seem expedient to the legislature to constitute and make the said bridge so erected and built a free bridge by [a] law to be enacted for that purpose, three commissioners shall be appointed by the legislature on the part of the commonwealth, and three by the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson, their heirs or assigns, who or any four or more of them, shall estimate what sum or sums of money the said Charles Bessonnet and Gershom Johnson, their heirs and assigns, shall be entitled to receive as a compensation for their trouble and expenses in building and maintaining the said bridge, which sum or sums shall be paid to them out of the treasury of this commonwealth.