

twenty-four hours) shall have remedy for the same with costs in a summary way against such judge or judges of election as small debts are recoverable before any justice of the peace of the county where such judge or judges shall be found and the president or vice president in council shall ascertain the proportion of such fees and other allowances to be borne and defrayed by each offender.

Section IX. (Section XIX. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all forfeitures by virtue of the act aforesaid or of this act, shall be recovered one-half to the use of the prosecutor, and the other half to the use of the commonwealth in the proper county by indictment, unless the same be a specified sum of money not exceeding ten pounds, in which case the same shall be recovered in a summary way as debts and demands not exceeding ten pounds are or shall be recoverable, and every prosecution for the same shall be commenced within six months after the offense shall have been committed and not afterwards.

Passed March 4, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 81.

See the Act of Assembly passed February 27, 1788. Chapter 1329.

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## CHAPTER MCCVI.

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AN ACT FOR SECURING TO THIS COMMONWEALTH THE FIDELITY AND ALLEGIANCE OF THE INHABITANTS THEREOF AND FOR ADMITTING CERTAIN PERSONS TO THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas during the continuance of the war lately waged by his Britannic Majesty against the United States of America, the legislature of Pennsylvania for the better securing the liberty and independence thereof wisely enacted divers laws requiring certain tests of allegiance and fidelity from the citizens of said commonwealth.

And whereas many of the inhabitants of the said commonwealth have omitted or neglected to take and subscribe the oaths or affirmations by the said laws required in the manner and

within the times therein specified, whereby they have deprived themselves of the privileges of citizenship and were thereby prevented from giving such evidence of their allegiance and fidelity to the commonwealth as the public safety required.

And whereas since the independence of America is established and a general peace concluded, it is judged expedient and reasonable to afford to those persons of the above description who are [now] willing and desirous another opportunity of testifying their allegiance and fidelity and thereby adding to the security of the commonwealth:

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 each and every of the male white inhabitants of this commonwealth who by reason of having omitted or neglected to take and subscribe all or any of the oaths or affirmations of allegiance and fidelity to this commonwealth as required by the several laws thereof or any of them is or has been debarred of any of the rights of citizenship shall immediately from and after his taking and subscribing before any justice of the peace of the ward, township or district wherein he resides or in case there is no justice of the peace within such ward, township or district, then and in that case only before the nearest justice of the peace to where such person resides the following oath of allegiance and adjuration, be and he is hereby declared to be a free citizen of this commonwealth and entitled to all and every the rights and privileges thereof any law of this commonwealth to the contrary notwithstanding.

The oath or affirmation to be as follows, viz: "I, A. B. do swear (or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm) that I renounce and refuse all allegiance to George the Third, King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent state, and that I will not at any time, do or cause to be done, any matter or thing that will be prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and inde-

pendence thereof, and I do further swear (or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm) that I never have since the declaration of the Independence of the United States of America voluntarily joined, aided, assisted or abetted the King of Great Britain, his generals, fleets or armies, or their adherents (knowing them to be such) whilst employed against the said United States or either of them."

Section II. (Section III. P. L.) Provided always nevertheless and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no benefit or advantage to be derived from this act shall be construed to extend to any person or persons who have been attainted of high treason pursuant to the laws of this commonwealth nor to any person or persons who have joined, aided, assisted, abetted or in anywise countenanced the savages in their depredations against the United States or any of them during the late war.

[Section III.] (Section IV. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justice or justices who shall administer the oath or affirmation aforesaid, shall thereupon deliver a certificate to the person taking the same, setting forth the name, surname, profession or occupation and place of abode of the party as well as the day of the month and year when it was taken, the form of which said certificate shall be as follows, viz:

"I do certify that ..... of the township of ..... in the county of ..... hath voluntarily taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and fidelity as directed by an act of general assembly of Pennsylvania passed the ..... day of ..... Anno Domini .....

Witness my hand and seal the .....day of ..... Anno Domini ..... (L. S.)"

[Section IV.] (Section V. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justice or justices of the peace aforesaid before whom such oath or affirmation shall be taken and subscribed shall keep fair registers of the names, surnames and additions of the persons so sworn or affirmed, and the time when, and shall on or before the first day of October

in every year transmit in writing under his or their hands and seals to the office of the recorder of deeds of his proper county, a true list of the names, surnames and additions of those who, within the same year have sworn or affirmed before them respectively, and the said justice or justices shall have and receive therefor and for the certificate from the party, the sum of two shillings and no more.

Section V. (Section VI. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the recorder of deeds in the several counties in this state are hereby enjoined to record the aforesaid lists in books prepared for that purpose, and shall be paid for the same by the justices respectively who transmit the same unto him out of the moneys they may receive from the parties sworn or affirmed as aforesaid at the rate of twenty-five shillings for every hundred names and no more.

Passed March 4, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 84, etc.

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## CHAPTER MCCVII.

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AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION BELONGING TO SAINT PETER'S CHURCH IN THE GREAT VALLEY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF TREDYFERIM AND COUNTY OF CHESTER.

(Section I. P. L.) Whereas the Episcopal congregation belonging to Saint Peter's Church in the Great Valley in the Township of Tredyfferim and county of Chester have prayed that their said congregation may be incorporated, and by law enabled as a body corporate and politic to receive and hold such charitable donations and bequests as have been or that hereafter may be made to their society and vested with such powers and privileges as are enjoyed by other religious societies.

And where as this house is disposed to exercise the powers vested in the legislature of the Commonwealth for the encouragement of pious and charitable purposes: