

## CHAPTER MMCCLXXXII.

AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT BETWEEN JOHN KUNIOUS AND BATHSHEBA HIS WIFE, LATE BATHSHEBA TROTH.

Whereas, John Kunius of Germantown, in the county of Philadelphia, by his petition to the legislature hath represented that on the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand eight hundred, he was lawfully joined in marriage, with Bathsheba Troth his present wife; that it hath since appeared that the said Bathsheba, previously to any connection or acquaintance between her and the said John, was got with child and was pregnant at the time of said marriage; of which child the said Bathsheba was delivered, on the twenty-second day of September, in the same year; and now stands charged by the grand inquest of the commonwealth, enquiring for the county of Philadelphia, with having on the said twenty-second day of September, killed and murdered the said infant; and that on the twenty-seventh day of the said month of September, the said Bathsheba, (probably to avoid the punishment due to the enormity of her crime) deserted the house of the said John, nor hath he since seen her, neither doth he know precisely where she is; but believes her to be secreted somewhere in her native state of New Jersey: And whereas, from sundry documents of the supreme court of this commonwealth, dated January the second, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and two, the foregoing statement of facts, hath been satisfactorily proved to the legislature; and all the judges of the said court have specially recommended an application for redress, by the said John to the legislature, in the following words, to wit: The court are clearly of opinion, that no relief can be granted the petitioner, within the provisions of the act of assembly; at the same time, the circumstances of the case are of so peculiar and distressing a nature, that they conceive it a very proper occasion, for the interposition of the legislature, and recommend the petitioner to prefer his petition for relief to the legislature, in order that the only relief which can

constitutionally be granted, may be afforded: And whereas it is but just and reasonable, that an injured and innocent person, should be released from all legal ties, with a person of such depravity of mind, and so abandoned and destitute of all the sympathetic feelings of human nature: Therefore,

Section I. (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the marriage of the said John Kunius and Bathsheba Kunius, be, and the same is hereby declared to be void and annulled, to all intents and purposes whatsoever; and they are hereby respectively declared to be separate, set free, and totally discharged from the matrimonial contract, and from all duties and obligations arising therefrom, as fully, effectually, and absolutely, as if they had never been joined in matrimony; any law, usage or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved April 2, 1802. Recorded in L. B. No. 8, p. 106.

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#### CHAPTER MMCLXXXIII.

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A FURTHER SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JUDICIAL COURTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH." (1).

Section I. (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the president and judges of the court of common pleas, in the county of Berks, shall be authorized, and they are hereby required, to hold adjourned courts of common pleas in the said county, for trying and arguing civil causes, to continue each one week, to wit: On the first Monday in March; on the first Monday in June; and on the second Monday in December, annually.

Section II. (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue in