

CHAPTER LIV.

A SUPPLEMENT

To "An act concerning divorces."

SECT. 1. *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 if any husband shall maliciously either abandon his family, or turn his wife out of doors, or by cruel and barbarous treatment endanger her life, or offer such indignities to her person as to render her condition intolerable or life burthensome, and thereby force her to withdraw from his house and family, it shall be lawful for the court of common pleas of the respective counties, upon complaint and due proof thereof, made in the manner prescribed in the act to which this is a supplement, to grant the wife a divorce from bed and board, and also to allow her such alimony as her husband's circumstances will admit of, so as the same do not exceed the third part of the annual profit or income of his estate or of his occupation and labour, which shall continue until a reconciliation shall take place, or until the husband shall, by his petition or libel, offer to receive and cohabit with her again, and to use her as a good husband ought to do, and then and in such case the court may either suspend the aforesaid sentence or decree, or in case of her refusal to return and cohabit under the protection of the court, discharge and annul the same according to their discretion; and if he fail in performing his said offers and engagements, the former sentence or decree may be revived and enforced, and the arrears of the alimony ordered to be paid.

Court of common pleas empowered to grant divorces.

Allow alimony, &c.—to what extent.

Court in certain cases may suspend sentence, or annul the sentence; and may in certain cases revive the former sentence.

REES HILL, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

ISAAC WEAVER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—the twenty-sixth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen.

SIMON SNYDER.