

sure, and of suing and being sued, and of doing all and every other matter and thing which a corporation or body politic may lawfully do.

The six first named persons in the said letters patent, shall give notice by advertisement in certain papers of the time and place of organizing said company. The subscribers to choose by ballot certain officers. Power to make by-laws.

SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the six persons first named in the said letters patent, shall as soon as conveniently may be, after the same have been sealed, give notice in two or more public newspapers, printed at Philadelphia, one whereof shall be in the German language, and also in a public newspaper printed at Norristown, and one printed at Downingtown, in the county of Chester, of the time and place by them to be appointed, not less than one calendar month from the time of issuing the first notice; at which time and place the said subscribers shall proceed to organize the said corporation, and shall choose by a majority of votes of said subscribers by ballot, to be delivered in person, one president, six managers, one treasurer, and such other officers as they shall think necessary to conduct the business of said company, until other officers shall be lawfully chosen, and make such by-laws, rules, orders, and regulations not inconsistent with the laws which govern this Commonwealth, as shall be found necessary for the well-ordering of the affairs of said company. And as soon as the said bridge shall be completed, the said company shall have and enjoy the like privileges, and shall be entitled to receive similar tolls, and be subject to the like limitations and restrictions as are given to and enjoined upon the company incorporated for erecting a permanent bridge over the river Schuylkill, opposite the flat rock, in the county of Philadelphia.

What privileges and tolls may be enjoyed by the company.

JAMES ENGLE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the third day of April, one thousand eight hundred and nine.

SIMON SNYDER.

CHAPTER LXXVIII.

An ACT concerning contempts of court.

SECTION I. *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 from and after the passing of this act, the power of the judges of the several courts of this commonwealth to issue attachments and inflict summary punishments for contempts of court shall be restricted to the following cases, *that is to say,* To the official misconduct of the officers of such courts respectively, to the negligence or disobedience of officers, parties, jurors, or witnesses against the lawful process of the court, to the misbehavior

Powers of the courts to inflict summary punishments for contempts of court, restricted. To what cases.

of any person in the presence of the court, obstructing the administration of justice.

SECT. II. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* Publications That from and after the passing of this act, all publications out respecting of court respecting the conduct of the judges, officers of the the conduct of judges, court, jurors, witnesses, parties or any of them, of, in and con- officers, &c. cerning any cause pending before any court of this common- in any cause wealth, shall not be construed into a contempt of the said court, pending be- so as to render the author, printer, publisher, or either of them, fore any court not to liable to attachment and summary punishment for the same; but be construed if such publication shall improperly tend to bias the minds of the into a con- public, the court, the officers, jurors, witnesses or any of them, tempt. But if such on a question pending before the court, any person feeling him- publication self aggrieved by such publication, shall be at liberty either to tend to bias proceed by indictment, or to bring an action at law against the the minds of the author, printer, publisher or either of them, and recover there- &c. improperly, the upon such damages as a jury may think fit to award.

SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the punishment of imprisonment in the first instance shall extend only to such contempts as are committed in open court; and all other contempts shall be punished by fine only: *Provided* No contempt always, That the sheriff or other proper officer, may take into to be punish- custody, confine or commit to jail, any person fined for a con- ed by impris- tempt, until such fine is discharged or paid; but if he shall be- sonment un- less commit- unable to pay such fine, such person may be committed to prison ted in open court. by the court for any time not exceeding three months.

SECT. IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That notwithstanding any thing in this act contained, the said courts shall have power respectively to make rules upon any she- be punished riff or coroner for the return of any writ or writs for the payment by fine only. of money received on any execution or process, and for the pro- Proviso as to such who are- duction of the body after a return of *cepi corpus* to an execution, unable or un- willing to pay or in default thereof for the payment of the debt and costs, and said fine. Courts may also to compel obedience to the said rules or any of them by at- make rules tachment. And the said courts shall have the same powers for the regu- against former sheriffs and coroners: *Provided,* That complaint lation of she- riffs' and co- roners' re- and application is made for that purpose within one year after the turns. termination of their said offices respectively.

SECT. V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* And may That this act shall be and continue in force for and during the compel obe- dience by at- term of two years from the passing thereof, and from thence unto tachment. To have si- the end of the next session of the legislature. milar powers against former sheriffs, and coroners.

JAMES ENGLE, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the third day of April, one thousand eight hundred and nine.

SIMON SNYDER.