

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

Passed at a Session, which commenced October 14th, 1765,
and ended September 20th, 1766.

1766.

JOHN PENN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

CHAPTER DXXXIII.

An ACT to prevent cutting or damaging the ropes used by the ferrymen on Schuylkill, or elsewhere, within this province.

WHEREAS the ropes used by the ferrymen, in drawing their boats over the river Schuylkill, and other rivers and creeks, within this province, greatly tend to the dispatch, ease and security of persons passing over the same: And whereas several evil minded persons, going up and down the said river Schuylkill, have wantonly and maliciously cut the said ropes, to the great obstruction of travellers, and damage of the owners thereof: For prevention therefore of the like mischiefs in future, *Be it enacted*, That if any person or persons, from and after the publication of this act, shall cut any rope, stretched across any of the said rivers or creeks, by the owner or occupier of any ferry, and used in drawing the boats carrying travellers over the same, and shall be thereof legally convicted before any County Court of Quarter Sessions, to be held for the county where the said offence shall be committed, or such offender apprehended, every such person or persons, so offending, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds; one moiety thereof to the owner or owners of the said rope, and the other moiety thereof to the Overseers of the poor of the city or township where such owner or owners shall reside, to be applied by them to the use of the poor of the said township. And in order to preserve the navigation of the said rivers and creeks as free as conveniently may be, *Be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall have occasion to go up or down the said rivers or creeks in shallops, or other larger decked vessels, every such person shall request the owners or occupiers, their fer-

Shallops, &c.
passing, the
ropes to be
sunk, &c.

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rymen or servants, to slacken and sink the said ropes, in such manner as to enable him or them to pass with his shallop, or other larger decked vessel, in safety; and if the said owners or occupiers, their ferrymen or servants, shall neglect or refuse to slacken and sink the said rope, in manner aforesaid, with all convenient speed, every such owner or occupier, being thereof legally convicted in the said court of Quarter Sessions, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds; one moiety thereof to the owner or owners of the said vessels so passing up or down the said river or creeks, and the other moiety to the overseers of the poor of the said township, for the use of the poor thereof.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That all flats or boats passing up and down the said river, if they shall be navigated by sails, shall have their masts to strike or take down occasionally, and the owners thereof, when they come near to the said ropes, shall take down and strike the said masts, and shall, with all other flats and boats, pass under the said ropes, without injuring or damaging the same as aforesaid, unless the said flats shall be so loaded as to require the raising or sinking the said ropes, in which case the said owner or owners of any of the said ropes, his or their servant or servants, shall, on such notice, to be given as aforesaid by the person navigating such loaded flats, raise or sink the said ropes, in such manner as to suffer and enable the said flats to pass by with safety, under the said penalty of ten pounds, to be recovered and applied in manner aforesaid.

Flats or boats, with sails, to have their masts to strike occasionally, &c.

Passed 8th February, 1766.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 113.