

vince line crosses the Tuscarora mountain, and running along the summit of that mountain to the Gap, near the head of the Path Valley; thence with a north line to the Juniata; thence with the Juniata to the mouth of Shaver's creek; thence north-east to the line of Berks county; then along the Berks county line north-westward to the western bounds of the province; thence southward, according to the several courses of the western boundary of the province, to the south-west corner of the province; and from thence eastward, with the southern line of the province, to the place of beginning: But forasmuch as the Tuscarora mountain does not extend to the province line, and the southern boundaries aforesaid are not properly described, the lines of the county of Bedford cannot be known and run by the Trustees appointed for that purpose: To the end, therefore, that the boundaries of the said county of Bedford may be certainly known, *Be it enacted*, That the lines following, to wit, beginning where the province line crosses the North or Blue mountain, that runs between the Great and Little Coves and that part of Cumberland county called Connegocheague; and thence along the summit of the said mountain to the beginning of the Tuscarora mountain, and running along the summit of the said Tuscarora mountain to the Gap, near the head of the Path Valley; from thence a north line to the Juniata river; thence up the Juniata to the mountain that divides the Kishicocolus Valley from the Standing Stone Valley, and along the summit of that mountain to the head of the Standing Stone creek; from thence north-east to the line of Berks county; thence by Berks county line to the western bounds of the province; thence southward, according to the several courses of the western boundary of the province, to the south-west corner thereof; and from thence with other boundaries of the province to the place of beginning; shall be, and are hereby declared to be, the boundary lines of the said county of Bedford, any thing in the said recited act to the contrary notwithstanding.

1772.

Boundary lines ascertained.

Passed 21st March, 1772.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 528. (g)

(g) The boundaries described in this act include, at present, many counties. It is, however, useful to be referred to, particularly with respect to titles to lands founded on warrants issued previous to the erection of other counties.

CHAPTER DCLX.

An ACT for the relief of such persons, as conscientiously scruple the taking of an oath in the common form. (h)

WHEREAS it is enacted and declared, in and by the act of General Assembly, passed in the twelfth and thirteenth years of his Majesty William the third, entitled *An Act concerning liberty of conscience*, "That no person, dwelling or residing within this province, who shall profess faith in GOD the Father, and in JESUS CHRIST, his only Son, and in the HOLY SPIRIT, one God blessed for evermore, and shall acknowledge the Holy Scriptures

(h) See ante. pa. 24, chap. 115, the act concerning liberty of conscience, and a reference to the existing laws upon the subject of qualifications of witnesses. (*Note to former edition.*)

1772. " of the Old and New Testaments to be given by divine inspiration, " and, when lawfully required, shall profess and declare that they " will live peaceably under the civil government, shall in any case " be molested or prejudiced for his or her conscientious persuasion, " but shall freely and fully enjoy his or her christian liberty, in all " respects, without molestation or interruption." And whereas many of the Protestant inhabitants of this province, who make the said professions of religion, and live peaceably under the government thereof, cannot, for conscience sake, take an oath in the common form, by laying the hand upon and kissing the book, when thereto legally required, some of whom, by reason thereof, have suffered imprisonment, and yet do not scruple to take an oath in the manner and form herein after specified: And forasmuch as justice cannot be well administered in many cases without their assistance, *Be it therefore enacted*, That all and all manner of crimes, offences, matters, causes and things whatsoever, to be enquired of, heard, tried and determined, or done or performed, by virtue of any law in this province, or otherwise, shall and may be inquired of, heard, tried and determined, by Judges, Justices, witnesses and inquest, and all other persons qualifying themselves, according to their conscientious persuasions respectively, either by taking the solemn affirmation, or any oath in the usual and common form, by laying the hand upon and kissing the book, or by lifting up the right hand, and pronouncing or assenting to the following words: *I, A. B. do swear by Almighty God, the searcher of all hearts, that I will*

Persons qualifying according to their conscientious persuasions to have the effect of an oath.

and that as I shall answer to God at the great day. Which oath, so taken by persons who conscientiously refuse to take an oath in the common form, shall be deemed and taken in law to have the same effect with an oath taken in the common form.

Penalty on taking a false oath.

II. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall be legally convicted of taking a false oath, in the form herein particularly prescribed, every such person or persons so offending shall incur and suffer the same pains, penalties, disabilities and forfeitures, as persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury do incur and suffer by the laws of Great-Britain.

III. *Provided always, nevertheless*, That nothing in this act contained shall be held, deemed or construed, to extend to enable any such person or persons to receive, take or exercise any office, judicial or ministerial, before he or they shall take the oath or oaths to the government usually taken by such officers, before they enter upon the duties of their offices, in the form herein before particularly prescribed.

Passed 21st March, 1772.—Recorded A. vol. V. page 502.

CHAPTER DCLXII.

A SUPPLEMENT to the act, entitled. An Act against adultery and fornication.

Ante, pa. 27. Chap. 122.

WHEREAS in and by the act of General Assembly, to which this act is a supplement, one moiety of the fines imposed on per-