

tember, 1791, and the 10th day of the state. See also the title *Donation* 1783. April, 1792, for the relief of the patentees in the 10th district, which was found to be out of the jurisdiction of land in the index. (*Note to former edition.*)

## CHAPTER DCCCCXCIX.

*An ACT incorporating the Presbyterian congregation of Newtown, in the county of Bucks.*

Passed 12th March, 1783.—Private Act.—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 51.

## CHAPTER MV.

*An addition and supplement to an act, entitled "An act for amending and continuing an act, entitled "An act for the support of the government of this province, making the excise on wine, rum, brandy, and other spirits, more equal, and preventing frauds in the collecting and paying the said excise." (i)*

SECT. XXII. *AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That, from and after the passing of this act, the rates of all tavern licences, exclusive of the fees of office, shall be double the sum at which they have been by law charged hitherto; and the clerks of the courts of Quarter Sessions are hereby enjoined and required to receive, from every person who shall be recommended as the law directs to keep a public house, a sum for every licence for that purpose, equal to double the sum which all such licences have been respectively rated at by law in the city of Philadelphia and the several counties of this state, and shall account for and pay over all such sums by them received, in the manner directed heretofore by law for receiving and paying over the same, any thing in any law heretofore made in anywise notwithstanding.

Rates of tavern licences to be double the sum at which they have been charged by law.

SECT. XXIII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person or persons shall hereafter retail and sell less than one quart of rum, wine, brandy, or other spirits, to be delivered at one time and to one person, without having first obtained licence agreeable to law for that purpose, he, she or they shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the penalty of ten pounds, over and above the excise for all such liquors by them retailed as afore-

Penalty on retailing less than one quart without licence.

(i) All the sections of this act, but those which are here printed, relate merely to the collection of the excise; and by an act of the 21st of September, 1791, (chap. 1571,) it is declared, that so much of every act or acts of Assembly, as authorize the collection of any duty or duties upon wine, &c. shall be, and are, repealed. The original act was passed on the 21st day of March, 1772; additional duties were laid by an

act of the 20th of March, 1783; and an act to enforce, among other things, the collection of monies due for excise, was passed on the 9th of December, 1783. For the act regulating tavern licences, see chap. 1752; and for a general reference to all the laws respecting tavern licences, see chap. 172, and the note there subjoined, ante. vol. I. page 74. (*Note to former edition.*)

1783. said, or be committed to the work-house or prison of the respective county where the offence shall be committed, there to be kept at hard labour for the space of three months, any thing in this law, or any other law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Part of the former law repealed.

SECT. XXIV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That so much of the act, to which this is an addition and supplement, as is altered, supplied or amended by this act, be, and the same is hereby, repealed and made void, any thing contained in any of the said laws, in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed 19th March, 1783.—Recorded in Law Book No. II. page 61.

## CHAPTER MXII.

*An ACT for preventing vexatious prosecutions and suits against such as acted in this state, for the defence of the liberties of America.*

SECT. I. WHEREAS divers virtuous citizens of this state, and other good people, well affected to their country, at an early period of the present war with Great Britain for the liberties and independence of the United States of America, have at the risque of their lives and fortunes, acted in conformity to and carried into execution several resolutions, recommendations, votes and orders of Congress, and of the Assemblies, Conventions, Committees, and other public bodies within this state, and also as civil and military officers, and in obedience to them, though perhaps in some cases not sufficiently authorized thereunto, in which proceedings some force and violence, and defect of form, was unavoidable, which in a time of peace and common safety would not have been warrantable; and also since the declaration of independence and the establishment of the present government, by reason of the wars and troubles raised and occasioned by our foreign and domestic enemies, divers like matters and things have been acted and done, all which were necessary and allowable in regard of the exigence of public affairs, and ought to be justified, and the parties concerned therein indemnified; nevertheless, some persons, ill affected to the present happy government, and the safety and welfare of their country, have commenced and prosecuted, and threaten to commence and prosecute, actions and suits against the good citizens, for and by reason of their actings and doings aforesaid: Therefore, for the preventing the troubles and charges which the said virtuous citizens might be put to, by means of such vexatious suits and prosecutions, and for their indemnity in the premises.

Personal actions, suits &c. for any thing done or performed by reason of the premises, hereby made void.

SECT. II. *Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same,* That all personal actions, suits, indictments, informations, and all other prosecutions, whatsoever, for or by reason of any act, matter or thing done or performed by any Assembly, Convention, Committee, or other public body within this state, or in obedience to any ordinance, vote, resolution, recommendation, order or advice of Congress,