

## CHAPTER MCCXLVIII.

1786.

An ACT for giving, during a limited time, a right of pre-emption to the actual settlers within that part of this state, which is within the territory purchased by the King of Great-Britain, of or from the Indians, at fort Stanwix, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight.

SECT. I. WHEREAS, by the act of General Assembly of this commonwealth, passed on the first day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, entitled "An act for opening the Land-Office, for granting and disposing of the unappropriated lands within this state," no reservation was made, or right of pre-emption given to settlers on the lands purchased of the Indians, at a treaty held at Fort Stanwix, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, but it was left in the power of all persons whatever to make application, and take out warrants for those lands :

[See the notes to chap. 1083, ante, page 102.]

And whereas many of the settlers on the said lands have been driven from their habitations in the course of the war, or have remained therein, and during the said time, with much suffering and at great risques, have formed a barrier to the country :

And whereas, by reason of the war and other causes, it is difficult for such settlers to pay the purchase money, and take out warrants for the said lands immediately; it is therefore just and reasonable, that a right of pre-emption, for a limited time, be given to them, and that they may take out warrants for the lands which they have possessed and improved at so great peril :

SECT. II. *Be it therefore 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 no warrant shall issue from the Land-Office of this state, for any tract of land on which a settlement is made, unless to such person or persons, respectively, who have made the settlement, or their legal representatives, [until the tenth day of April, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight,] and if any such warrant shall issue otherwise than aforesaid, it shall be deemed to have issued by surprise, and shall be of no avail in law.

Warrant not to issue for settled lands, unless to the settlers, before the 10th of April, 1780.

[Since extended.]

SECT. III. *Provided always,* That by a settlement shall be understood, an actual personal resident settlement, with a manifest intention of making it a place of abode, and the means of supporting a family, and continued from time to time, unless interrupted by the enemy, or by going into the military service of this country during the war.

What shall be deemed a settlement.

SECT. IV. *Provided always,* That this act shall extend only to that part of this state which is within the territory purchased of or from the Indians, by the King of Great Britain, at Fort Stanwix, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight, and that no such settler shall or may have the pre-emption of any tract, exceeding four hundred acres, by reason of any such settlement.

This act to extend only to the lands purchased in 1768, at Fort Stanwix.