

1789.

CHAPTER MCCCXCII.

An ACT empowering certain trustees, therein named, to sell and dispose of a certain house and lot of ground, situate in the town of Easton, and county of Northampton, and to appropriate the monies arising from the sale thereof, towards the purchase of a parsonage or dwelling-house for the minister of the four Protestant Evangelic Reformed German congregations, to wit, that of Easton, Bethlehem, Plainfield and Greenwich townships, for the time being.

Passed 21st March, 1789.—Private Act.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 482.

CHAPTER MCCCXCVII.

An ACT for the incorporation of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Passed 26th March, 1789.—Private Act.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 490.

CHAPTER MCCCC.

A SUPPLEMENT to the several acts of Assembly for the relief of insolvent debtors.

SECT. I. WHEREAS, by the laws of this commonwealth, no person is entitled to the benefit of the several acts of Assembly made for the relief of insolvent debtors, unless he or she shall have resided therein for the space of two years next before his or their imprisonment; and it is thought expedient to alter the same, under certain limitations and restrictions, in order to prevent the necessity of frequent applications to the legislature, by persons who may be unable to make payment, and who are nevertheless without relief under the existing laws:

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 so much of the laws of this commonwealth, as deprives any person or persons, by reason of his, her or their not having resided therein for the space of two years next before his, her or their imprisonment, of the benefit of, or relief under, all or any of the acts of General Assembly made for the relief of insolvent debtors, shall, as against him, her or them, at whose suit or suits any such person or persons is, are, or shall be imprisoned, and so far as relates or shall relate to the debt or debts due to such plaintiff or plaintiffs, if the same shall not in the whole exceed the sum of one hundred pounds, be, and they are hereby repealed, and made null and void.

SECT. III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That at all times, from and immediately after the passing of this act, the like benefit and relief, which by the laws of this commonwealth made for the relief of insolvent debtors, may or can be af-

[See vol. 1. p. 181, chap. 315. and the notes thereto subjoined.]

Relief extended, as to the past, to insolvent debtors, who have not resided here two years;

and, also, as to such insolvents in future.

forded to any of the inhabitants thereof, who have resided therein for the space of two years next before his, her or their imprisonment, shall be extended and afforded, under the same rules, regulations, exceptions and restrictions, and on the same terms and conditions, to all and every such person and persons, as are in and by the said acts of General Assembly, or any of them, mentioned, notwithstanding he, she or they has or have not resided, or shall not have resided, within this commonwealth for any time before his, her or their imprisonment.

1789.

[*Provided nevertheless*, That nothing herein contained shall extend to, or operate against any other creditor or creditors of any such insolvent debtor or debtors, than him, her or them, at whose suit or suits such insolvent debtor or debtors is, are or shall be imprisoned: *And provided further*, That the provisions herein contained shall not extend to any person, who is or shall be imprisoned, at the suit or suits of one or more person or persons, for any debt or debts exceeding one hundred pounds in the whole.]

But not to operate against any other but the plaintiffs; nor if the debts exceed 100 pounds. [See act of 16th Feb'y, 1799.]

SECT. IV. And whereas it has been found, on experience, that the long confinement for small debts, fines or forfeitures, of those who are incapable of making satisfaction, tends to the distress of their families, as well as to the public injury, by the burthens created, and idle habits contracted thereby: For remedy whereof, *Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That every person who now is, or hereafter shall be confined in any gaol within this commonwealth, in execution or otherwise, for any debt or debts, sum or sums of money, or fine or fines, forfeiture or forfeitures, none of which do or shall exceed the sum of five pounds, exclusive of costs, and has or shall have remained so confined for the space of thirty days, shall be discharged from such confinement, and not be liable to be again imprisoned for the same; and the Sheriff, Gaoler or Keeper of the gaol, in which such person is or shall be confined as aforesaid, shall, upon application to him by the person so confined, discharge him or her out of custody, if detained for such debt or debts, sum or sums of money, fine or forfeiture, only, and for no other cause.

Relief in cases of imprisonment for small debts, fines and forfeitures.

Passed 27th March, 1789.—Recorded in Law Book No. III. page 491.

CHAPTER MCCCCI.

An ACT for granting trials at Nisi Prius in the county of Philadelphia.

SECT. I. WHEREAS the periods for holding the several terms of the Supreme Court at Philadelphia have, by experience, been found too short for the despatch of and expediting the business of the said court, owing partly to the great length of time necessary to the discussion of many important and complex cases, which have been there determined, whereby many other trials have been unavoidably postponed, and partly to a portion of each term being necessarily allotted for arguments of points of law, and motions in actions removed from the several counties in the state; and it is con-

[See the notes to chap. 255, vol. I, pa. 131, for all the acts respecting the judiciary system, and the various alterations therein.]