

CHAPTER MMCCLXXXVIII.

1802.

An ACT to maintain the territorial rights of this State, and protect the property of persons holding lands under the same.

[See chap. 1815, ante, page 209, and the notes thereto.]

WHEREAS, certain persons under the pretence of title derived either from the state of Connecticut, or from certain companies known by the names of the Connecticut Susquehanna company, and the Connecticut Delaware company, to a considerable extent of territory within this state, have by various improper practices long endeavoured to defeat the execution of the laws of this state, and to defame the titles of persons holding lands by grants from this state or the late proprietaries before the revolution; in order therefore, to counteract such practices, and to preserve the just rights of this state,

SECT. I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That from and after the first day of May next, no conveyance to be made of any land within the counties of Luzerne, Lycoming and Wayne, shall be good or effectual to pass any right, title, estate, interest or claim whatever, either at law or in equity, unless the title to the land in such conveyance mentioned, is derived from this state, or the late proprietaries thereof, before the fourth of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, and unless the said conveyance shall expressly refer to and recite the substance of the warrant, survey, patent or title under which the same is so derived from this state, or the late proprietaries thereof, before the said fourth of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy six; and if any Judge or Justice shall take an acknowledgment or proof of, or any Recorder of deeds, or any other person, shall record any deed which shall not have been derived as aforesaid, he shall forfeit for every offence, the sum of two hundred dollars, which forfeiture shall be recoverable by action of debt, in any Court of Record in this state, the one half thereof to the use of the commonwealth, and the other half thereof to the person who shall sue for the same; and such acknowledgment and recording, shall be void and of no effect; and every such Recorder of deeds so offending, shall forfeit his office: *Provided always,* That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to make valid any conveyance heretofore made, of any pretended title or claim to land under the colony or state of Connecticut, or either of the companies known by the names of the Connecticut Susquehanna, or the Connecticut Delaware company.

No conveyance of land within the counties of Luzerne, Lycoming and Wayne, shall pass any estate, where the title is not derived from this state or the proprietaries before the 4th of July, 1776.

Penalty on any Judge or Justice for receiving proof of, or recorder for recording a deed of a different description.

SECT. II. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That no person in any manner interested in the said pretended title or claim under the colony or state of Connecticut, or either of the said companies, shall sit as a Judge or serve as a juror in any cause, civil or criminal, wherein the said pretended claim or title shall or may, directly or indirectly, be brought into question; and if any Sheriff shall summon any person or persons, to serve as a juror or jurors, who are directly or indirectly concerned and interested in any Connecticut title, knowing him or them to be so concerned or interested, such Sheriff, on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any

No person interested in the Connecticut title to act as Judge or juror in any cause where said title may come in question, and fine on Sheriff summoning any such person as a juror.

1802. sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be recovered as other fines and forfeitures are recoverable by law.

The penalties or disabilities created by this act, except so far as relates to Judges, Sheriffs or jurors, not to extend to land or the claimants thereof within the seventeen townships of Luzerne, &c.

SECT. III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That none of the penalties or disabilities created by the present act, except so far as relates to Judges, Sheriffs or jurors, shall relate to land or the claimants of land within the seventeen townships of Luzerne county, or any of them, so far as concerns any act of theirs respecting lands within the said townships, which have been or may hereafter be duly submitted according to law, under the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of this commonwealth, passed on the fourth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, entitled "An act offering compensation to Pennsylvania claimants of land within the seventeen townships in Luzerne county, and for other purposes therein mentioned," or any supplement thereto.

Any person selling or purchasing, or in any manner contracting for land under the Connecticut title or either of the land companies, to forfeit 200 dollars.

SECT. IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That any person who shall, from and after the first day of June next, bargain, sell or convey, or by any ways or means obtain, get or procure any pretended right or title, or make or take any promise, contract, grant or covenant, to have any right or title of any person or persons, in or to any lands, tenements, or hereditaments within this state, under the said pretended title from the state of Connecticut, or either of the said companies, shall forfeit the sum of two hundred dollars, which forfeiture shall be recoverable by action of debt, in any court of record in this commonwealth, the one half thereof to the use of the commonwealth, and the other half to the person who shall sue for the same; and such promise, contract, grant or covenant, is hereby declared to be utterly void and of no effect.

Proclamation to be issued by the Governor.

SECT. V. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the Governor is hereby authorized and required to make known the contents of this law by proclamation, and to enjoin obedience thereto.

Passed 6th April, 1802.—Recorded in Law Book No. VIII. page 191.

CHAPTER MMCCCLXXXIX.

[See chap. 2042, ante, pa. 362, and the notes thereto.]

A further SUPPLEMENT to the act, entitled "An Act offering compensation to the Pennsylvania claimants of certain lands within the seventeen townships, in the county of Luzerne, and for other purposes therein mentioned," passed the fourth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

Who shall have the benefit of the act to which this is a supplement and on what terms.

SECT. I. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That all Pennsylvania claimants, whose titles originated prior to the decree at Trenton, entitled to land within the seventeen townships, who shall transmit their releases, and all Connecticut claimants intended to be embraced within the provisions of the act to which this act is a supplement, claiming land within the said seventeen townships, who shall submit their titles to the Secretary of the