

Elliot, of the county of Bedford, or any two of them be and are hereby nominated, empowered and required to hear and discharge the prisoners in the gaol of the county of Bedford; and Samuel Hunter, Laughlin McCartney, and John Boyd, of the county of Northumberland, or any two of them be and are hereby nominated, empowered and required to hear and discharge the prisoners in the gaol of the county of Northumberland; and Edward Cook, Robert Hanna and David Semple, of the county of Westmoreland, or any two of them be and are hereby nominated, empowered and required to hear and discharge the prisoners in the gaol in the county of Westmoreland.

And that all sheriffs and gaolers heretofore elected and appointed and all other persons within this state give due obedience to the said persons or any two of them within their several counties who have been hereby authorized and appointed to hear and discharge the prisoners aforesaid.

[Section III.] And be it further ordained, That the several sheriffs and gaolers of the several and respective counties heretofore elected and appointed shall and they are hereby authorized, directed and commanded to keep in safe custody all such persons that now are or shall hereafter be committed to them for capital offenses, practices against the present virtuous measures of the American States and prisoners of war, until they shall be discharged by due course of law or by the authority of the honorable the Congress of the United States.

Passed August 1, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the note to the act of Assembly passed February 14, 1729-30, Chapter 315.

CHAPTER DCCXXVIII.

AN ORDINANCE TO PREVENT THE COUNTERFEITING THE PAPER MONEY ISSUED BY THE HONORABLE THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OR BY THIS OR ANY OTHER OF THE UNITED AMERICAN STATES.

Whereas great mischiefs may arise to the United States of America and the prosperity of the good people, inhabitants

thereof, rendered precarious and insecure by wicked and designing persons counterfeiting the paper bills of credit issued by the honorable the Continental Congress or by any of the United States of America:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] Be it ordained and declared and it is hereby ordained and declared by the Representatives of the freemen of the State of Pennsylvania in General Convention met, That if any person or persons shall presume to counterfeit any of the bills of credit issued or hereafter to be issued by the honorable the Continental Congress or by and under any laws or resolves of the assembly of Pennsylvania or by the legislatures or assemblies or conventions of this or any other of the United States by printing or procuring the same to be printed in the likeness of the said genuine bills of credit, and also if any person or persons shall forge the name or names of the signers of the true bills of credit to such counterfeit bills, whether the counterfeiting of the bills or names be done within this state or elsewhere, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited as aforesaid, and being thereof legally convicted by confession, standing mute or by verdict of twelve men in any court of oyer and terminer hereafter to be erected within this state, he, she or they shall suffer death, and the discoverer or informer shall have as an encouragement for his or her discovery the sum of fifty pounds to be levied out of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements, of the person convicted, and if no such goods or chattels, lands or tenements can be found, a reward of twenty pounds shall be paid out of the public treasury. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit by altering the denomination of the said bills with design to increase the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convicted in any court of record hereafter to be established in this state, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory and have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory, and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-one lashes well laid on.

And, moreover, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, to be levied on his lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one-half to the use of the state and the other half to the discoverer. And the offender shall pay the party double the value of the damages thereby sustained together with the costs and charges of the prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall by order of the court where he or she shall be convicted be sold for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction; and in such case the treasurer of this state shall reward the discoverer of such insolvent offender to the value of five pounds out of the public moneys in his hands; and every such counterfeit bill shall be delivered to the said treasurer to be burnt and destroyed.

[Section II.] And be it further ordained and declared, That the paper bills of credit issued by the honorable the Continental Congress or under the late laws or by the resolves of the late assembly of Pennsylvania, shall be legal tender in all cases whatsoever within this state.

Passed August 1, 1776. See Appendix XXXV, and the notes to the acts of Assembly passed March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 289; September 28, 1773, Chapter 686.

As to Section I, see the acts of Assembly passed January 29, 1777, Chapter 738; (the two Acts of Assembly passed) March 20, 1777, Chapters 752, 753; December 10, 1777, Chapter 768; March 23, 1778, Chapter 791; May 25, 1778, Chapter 800; November 26, 1779, Chapter 369; March 25, 1780, Chapter 907; June 1, 1780, Chapter 912; April 7, 1781, Chapter 939; March 18, 1782, Chapter 960; March 16, 1785, Chapter 1137; September 13, 1785, Chapter 1178; April 22, 1794, Chapter 1777; March 5, 1804, P. L. 235; March 16, 1809, P. L. 43; March 21, 1814, P. L. 154; March 25, 1824, P. L. 59; February 21, 1825, P. L. 32; March 21, 1825, P. L. 85; April 11, 1825, P. L. 163; (the two Acts of Assembly passed) April 8, 1826, P. L. 257, 258; April 11, 1827, P. L. 236; February 2, 1828, P. L. 46; February 7, 1828, P. L. 68; March 30, 1829, P. L. 116; April 23, 1829, P. L. 341; March 13, 1830, P. L. 86; April 3, 1830, P. L. 178; April 1, 1831, P. L. 298; March 30, 1832, P. L. 234; April 3, 1832, P. L. 271; (the three Acts of Assembly passed) April 23, 1832, P. L. 380, 383, 385; June 9, 1832, P. L. 601; March 29, 1833, P. L. 102; (the two Acts of Assembly passed) April 14, 1835, P. L. 251, 255; March 31, 1860, P. L. 332; January 7, 1867, P. L. 1369; May 8, 1889, P. L. 127.

As to Section II, see the Acts of Assembly passed January 29, 1777, Chapter 738; March 20, 1777, Chapter 752; June 13, 1777, Chapter 755; March 23, 1778, Chapter 791; May 25, 1778, Chapter 800;

May 31, 1780, Chapter 911; September 22, 1780, Chapter 918; December 19, 1780, Chapter 921; December 22, 1780, Chapter 923; December 23, 1780, Chapter 924; February 20, 1781, Chapter 927; April 7, 1781, Chapter 939; (repealed by the the Act of Assembly passed) June 21, 1781, Chapter 945; April 13, 1782, Chapter 978; January 31, 1783, Chapter 1003; March 12, 1783, Chapter 1008. By Article I, Section X, paragraph 1, of the Federal Constitution, the states are prohibited from making anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts.

CHAPTER DCCXXIX.

AN ORDINANCE RESPECTING THE ARMS OF NON-ASSOCIATORS.

Whereas the non-associators in this state have either refused or neglected to deliver up their arms according to the resolves of the honorable Continental Congress and the assembly of Pennsylvania, and effectual measures have not been taken to carry the said resolves into execution:

[Section I.] Be it therefore ordained by the authority of this Convention, That the colonel or next officer in command of every battalion of militia in this state is hereby authorized, empowered and required to collect, receive and take all the arms in his district or township nearest to such officer which are in the hands of non-associators in the most expeditious and effectual manner in his power, and shall give to the owners receipts for such arms, specifying the amount of the appraisement; and such as can be repaired shall with all possible dispatch be rendered fit for service, and the value according to the appraisement of all such arms, together with the repairs and transportation, shall be paid to the officers by the treasurer on the order of the council of safety for the use of the owners and defraying the charges.

[Section II.] And be it further ordained, That the same arms shall be appraised by any three reputable freeholders appointed by the commanding officer; but if the owner of any arms shall neglect or refuse to apply for such money within six months the same shall be applied towards the repairs of the arms; and