

criminals and debtors who are or shall be liable by the laws of this commonwealth to be holden, kept and imprisoned in the gaol of the said city and county, for and during the times in their respective commitments warranted by the said laws mentioned and expressed, anything in the before recited law to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

[Section II.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said James Claypoole, Esquire, the present sheriff of the said city and county and his deputies, shall be and they are hereby indemnified and saved harmless against all and all manner of suits and actions which may be brought against him, them or any of them for or by reason of the keeping and imprisoning of any person or persons that now are imprisoned or have been imprisoned in the said gaol since the twenty-seventh day of August last, who ought to have been imprisoned in the gaol of the said city and county and that if any such suit or action shall be brought against him or them the same is hereby declared to be barred.

[Section III.] (Section V, P. L.) Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to disannul or make void the said recited act or any clause, article, matter or thing therein contained, except what is hereby altered or supplied, but that the same articles, clauses, matters and things not hereby altered or supplied, shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Passed October 8, 1779. See the note to the act of Assembly passed August 27, 1778, Chapter 302; and the Acts of Assembly passed September 10, 1784, Chapter 1108; April 8, 1785, Chapter 1165; September 13, 1785, Chapter 1177.

CHAPTER DCCCLXI.

AN ACT FOR DISSOLVING THE MARRIAGE OF JAMES MARTYN WITH ELIZABETH HIS WIFE.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas James Martin of the city of Philadelphia by his petition hath shown that during his absence from the said city at the time when the British army were in posses-

sion thereof, his wife Elizabeth resorted among the British soldiers, and took one serjeant Havell of the British army into his the said James Martin's house and bed, and cohabited with the said Havell as his wife, declared the said Havell to be her husband and passed by his name until the British troops left the city, when she went off with said Havell, taking with her the said James Martin's effects, and leaving him to pay sundry debts of her contracting, and therefore by his said petition hath prayed that he may be divorced from the said Elizabeth his wife, and their marriage dissolved so that he may be relieved in future from any charges for her maintenance or any debts of her contracting and that he may be hereafter enabled to marry again:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas the several facts set forth in the said petition have been fully proved on oath by sundry witnesses, and due notice hath been given by advertisements in the public newspapers to the end that any person or persons might now show cause why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted, and nothing appearing to the contrary:

[Section I.] (Section III, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the date hereof the marriage of the said James Martin with Elizabeth his wife, and all and every contract and celebration of marriage had, made or concluded by and between them, be and they and every of them are hereby enacted and declared to be dissolved, and from henceforth null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if the same had never been contracted, made or celebrated; and that from henceforth all and every the duties, rights and claims accruing to either of the said parties at any time heretofore in pursuance of the said marriage shall cease and determine and that the said James Martin shall and do cease from being the husband of the said Elizabeth, and the said Elizabeth Martin from being the wife of the said James in law and in fact forever.

(Section IV, P. L.) Provided always nevertheless, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to, or affect or

render illegitimate any children born of the body of the said Elizabeth during her coverture with the said James.

[Section II.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the date hereof the said James Martin be, and he is hereby freely, fully and entirely authorized and empowered to contract matrimony and the same in due form to celebrate with any other woman in like manner as he the said James, if he had never been married to the said Elizabeth lawfully, might or could do.

Passed October 8, 1779.

CHAPTER DCCCLXII.

A SUPPLEMENT TO "AN ACT FOR THE MORE EASY AND SPEEDY RECOVERY OF SMALL DEBTS."¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it has been found by experience that the law to which [this] is a supplement was beneficial to the good people of this state, and it would be more so if extended to a greater sum:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) 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 all actions for debt or other demand for the value of five pounds and not exceeding fifty pounds (except such actions as are excepted in the law to which this is a supplement) shall immediately after the publication of this act, be and are hereby made cognizable before any justice of the peace of the city of Philadelphia or any of the counties of this state and where the party resides, or may be found in such manner as is directed by the law to which this is a supplement for the recovery of debts above forty shillings and not exceeding five pounds and proceed to judge and execute thereon as is thereby directed.

¹Passed March 1, 1745-6, Chapter 365.