

mitted) be and they are hereby authorized and required upon the petition of the said John Sensenigh to grant unto him the like relief as by the laws of this state is provided and enacted for insolvent debtors who are confined in execution for debt, not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds to any one person.

[Section II.] (Section III. P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the same court upon such petition being made to them by the said John Sensenigh for his discharge as aforesaid, shall thereupon proceed in all things conformably to the purport, intent and meaning of the several acts of assembly now in force in this commonwealth for the relief of insolvent debtors not owing more than one hundred and fifty pounds to one person as aforesaid that their discharges be equally valid and effectual, and their proceedings equally good and binding, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any creditor or creditors of the said John Sensenigh do not or shall not reside in the state at the time of such proceedings before the same court that the service of notice of the application to the said court or of any rule or order of the same court in the premises on the known agent or attorney of such creditor or creditors within this state shall be equally good and effectual as if the same notice or notices were served on such creditor or creditors in person.

Passed November 18, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 27, etc.

CHAPTER CMXCVII.

AN ACT TO VEST THE ESTATE OF JOHN SPERING, LATE OF EASTON, IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, CORDWAINER, IN HIS FOUR CHILDREN.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas John Spering late of Easton in Northampton county sometime in the month of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight left his said place of abode and family and without any

leave or license for so doing passed the enemy's lines, and it is supposed took his passage for England the place of his nativity:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas in pursuance of an act of assembly entitled "An act for the attainder of divers traitors if they render not themselves by a certain day and for vesting their estates in this commonwealth and for more effectually discovering the same and for ascertaining and satisfying the lawful debts and claims thereupon"¹ the supreme executive council of this commonwealth did by proclamation summon the said John Spering to render himself to some one of the justices of the supreme court; or of the justices of the peace of one of the counties within this state on or before the day in the said proclamation limited and appointed, in order to abide his legal trial for his said offence, or for any treason or misprison of treason which might be charged against him:

(Section III, P. L.) And where as the said John Spering failing to obey and comply with the terms of the said proclamation became attaint of high treason, and the agents for forfeited estates in the county of Northampton in pursuance of the said act of assembly did seize his real estate and property, to wit, a certain wooden house or tenement and lot of land in the said town of Easton, on the north side of the great square, marked in the plan of the said town "number one hundred and forty" and thereupon his eldest son Henry Spering in behalf of himself, his brother John Spering now a soldier in the army of the United States, in the Pennsylvania line, and two sisters, Jane Spering and Elizabeth Spering, has craved the mercy of this house, to which they were at the same time recommended by a number of reputable inhabitants of the said town of Easton:

(Section IV, P. L.) Therefore and in order to give relief to these children:

[Section I.] Be it 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 the said real and personal estate whereof the said John Spering stood siezed and possessed of at the time of his

¹ Passed March 6, 1778, Chapter 784.

attainder be and is hereby vested in the said Henry Spering, John Spering, Jane Spering and Elizabeth Spering, and their heirs and assigns forever, equally to be divided between them as tenants in common and not as joint tenants, subject nevertheless, and liable to the payment and discharge of all the just debts of the said John Spering, the father, and of the charges and expenses which may have been incurred in pursuance of the said attainder and the consequent forfeiture and seizure thereof, to be settled and established by the justices of the supreme court upon claims to them exhibited in like manner as the claims of persons against other forfeited estates are to be settled by law.

Passed November 22, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 28, etc.

CHAPTER CMXCVIII.

AN ACT FOR RAISING AN IMPOST ON GOODS, WARES AND MERCHANDISE IMPORTED OR BROUGHT INTO THIS STATE BY LAND.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the merchants and traders of the city of Philadelphia, by their memorial have set forth that large quantities of merchandise are imported or brought into this state by land and are not liable to the payment of the duty or impost which arise on goods, wares and merchandise, imported by water according to the act entitled "An act for an impost on goods, wares and merchandise imported into this State," passed the twenty-third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty,¹ and the act "For guarding and defending the navigation in the bay and river Delaware, and for other purposes therein mentioned," passed the ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.²

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas the intention of the above recited acts may be evaded by bringing or importing goods,

Passed November 22, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 27, etc.

¹ Passed December 23, 1780, Chapter 925.

² Passed April 9, 1782, Chapter 965.