

CHAPTER MIII.

AN ACT TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE HARMLESS THE PERSONS APPOINTED TO SUPERINTEND THE MAKING AND PERFECTING THE BILLS OF CREDIT, DATED THE TWENTIETH DAY OF APRIL, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE, FROM THE PENALTIES THEY MAY HAVE INCURRED BY NOT PERFECTING AND FINISHING THE WHOLE OF THE SAID BILLS, AND TO MAKE THE SAID BILLS OF CREDIT OF APRIL, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE, A LEGAL TENDER FOR THE TAXES OF NINETY-THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY POUNDS AND TEN SHILLINGS PER ANNUM LAID BY AN ACT OF ASSEMBLY OF THE NINETEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY, ENTITLED "A SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED 'AN ACT FOR FUNDING AND REDEEMING THE BILLS OF CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND FOR PROVIDING MEANS TO BRING THE PRESENT WAR TO A HAPPY CONCLUSION.'" ¹

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas in and by an act of general assembly of this commonwealth passed the seventh day of April which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, entitled "An act for emitting the sum of five hundred thousand pounds in bills of credit for the present support of the army and for establishing a fund for the support of the same," ² George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, esquires, or a majority of them, were appointed to superintend the preparing, printing, numbering, signing and perfecting the bills of credit of divers denominations, amounting in the whole to the sum of five hundred thousand pounds, as by the said recited act, relation thereunto being had, may more fully appear:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas for divers good causes known to them and approved of by this house, the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris did not think it proper to prepare, print and

¹ Passed December 19, 1780, Chapter 919.

² Passed April 7, 1781, Chapter 939.

perfect all the bills of credit which by the said act they were directed and enjoined to do:

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas the bills of credit so directed to be made and perfected, but which have not been so prepared, made and perfected, were the following denominations, that is to say,

Twenty thousand bills of the sum of five shillings each,

Twenty thousand bills of the sum of two shillings and six-pence each,

Twenty thousand bills of the sum of two shillings each,

Twenty thousand bills of the sum of one shilling each.

Forty thousand bills of the sum of nine pence each.

Forty thousand bills of the sum of six pence each.

Forty thousand bills of the sum of three pence each.

Amounting to the value of thirteen thousand five hundred pounds:

[Section I.] (Section IV, 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 the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris shall be and they are hereby discharged from all further care, attention and charge of the said bills of credit of the twentieth day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, and that the residue of the said bills which have not been made and perfected in pursuance of the said act shall not be proceeded on or finished; and that the said George Gray, John Steinmetz, Henry Hill, Samuel Penrose, Henry Hayes and William Harris, shall be, and hereby are indemnified and saved harmless from any suit or prosecution to which they or any of them may be liable for omitting to prepare, print and perfect any of the said bills in pursuance of the said act; and they and every of them may plead this act in bar of any such suit or prosecution.

(Section V, P. L.) And whereas doubts may arise whether the taxes directed to be raised, levied and collected, by an act of Assembly, passed the nineteenth day of December which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty entitled "A supplement to an act for funding and redeeming the

bills of credit of the United States of America and for providing means to bring the present war to an happy conclusion,³ may be discharged and paid in the said bills of credit dated the twentieth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, and it may be proper to declare how the tax of ninety-three thousand six hundred and forty pounds and ten shillings by the act last mentioned directed to be laid, levied and collected during the present year should be assessed, levied, collected and paid:

[Section II.] (Section VI, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bills of credit of the twentieth day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one shall be a legal tender for the taxes laid and to be laid in pursuance of the act aforesaid; and that the assessing, levying, collecting and managing of the said tax, directed by the same act, for the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, shall be conducted and ordered according to the directions of an act of assembly passed on the twenty-seventh day of March last, entitled "An act to raise effective supplies for the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two;"⁴ and that all the authorities, powers, penalties and provisions of the last recited act shall be extended to the levying and collecting said tax of ninety-three thousand six hundred and forty pounds and ten shillings in like proportions on every taxable person within this state as may have been or shall be apportioned and rated in the books of assessment for the supplies of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two and not otherwise.

[Section III.] (Section VII, P. L.) Provided always, That if upon appeal to the commissioners of the county it shall appear that any real estate shall have been transferred in the interim by the person or persons charged for the same in the assessment of the supplies for the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, the said commissioners shall thereupon transfer the tax on such estate to the purchaser or new feoffee thereof and levy the same accordingly.

Passed January 31, 1783. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 39, etc.

³ Passed December 19, 1780, Chapter 919.

⁴ Passed May 27, 1782, Chapter 961.