

CHAPTER MCCXLV.

AN ACT TO DISTRIBUTE AND ANNEX THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COMMONWEALTH UPON THE RIVER DELAWARE BELOW THE STATION POINT AND TO CERTAIN ISLANDS WITHIN THE SAME TO THE COUNTIES OF NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS, PHILADELPHIA AND CHESTER.

(Section I. P.L.) Whereas in and by an act of the general assembly of this state entitled, "An act to ratify and confirm an agreement made between commissioners appointed by the legislature of the state of New Jersey and commissioners appointed by the state of Pennsylvania for the purpose of settling the jurisdiction of the river Delaware and islands within the same,"¹ which act was published on the twentieth day of September Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, an agreement between the state of Pennsylvania of the one part and of the state of New Jersey of the other part, made and concluded by commissioners acting in behalf of the said states respectively whereby, inter alia, it was agreed and established "that all islands, islets and dry lands within the bed and between the shores of the said river and between the Station Point northerly and the Falls of Trenton southerly, &c." was ratified and confirmed, whereby certain islands therein enumerated and described were to be deemed and considered as parts and parcels of Pennsylvania.

And whereas George Wall, John Okely, Jonas Hartzel, commissioners on the part of the state of Pennsylvania, and Moore Furman, Esquire, commissioner on the part of the state of New Jersey, who have been [since] appointed to distinguish the several islands within the bed of the same river between the Station Point northerly and the Falls of Trenton and to declare which of the same islands, on the principle aforesaid belong to each of the said states respectively, have caused an actual survey to be made of the said river from the said Station Point northerly to the falls aforesaid and have reported and returned a draft of the same river and islands to the president in council

¹ Chapter 1035.

whereby it appears that the following islands within the said river and northerly of the Falls of Trenton belong to and are part of this state, that is to say, opposite to the county of Buck's and townships hereafter named; opposite to the Falls township, Bird's island; opposite Lower Makefield township, Slack's three islands, Duor's island, and Harvey's lower island; opposite to Upper Makefield township, Harvey's upper island and Lowne's island; opposite to Solesbury township, Smith's island and bar and Paxton island and bar; opposite to Tinnicum township, Prall's two islands, Wall's island, Resolution island, Marshall's island, Wall's two islands, Fishing island and Pennington's island; opposite to Nockamixon township, Laghlin's island, and opposite to the county of Northampton and the townships hereafter named, that is to say, opposite to Williams township, Pohatung island, Shoemaker's island and Lohr's island; opposite to the Forks township, Easton island; opposite to Mount Bethel, Mason's island and bar, Mason's island, Foul Rift island, McIlhenny's island and Attin's two islands; opposite Lower Smithfield, Handle's island and bar, Goodwin's two islands, Shawanaugh's island and bar, Vancampen's island, Nicholas Depuy's island and two bars, Chamber's island and Vanoken's island; opposite to Delaware township, Swartwood's island and Isaac Vancampen's island opposite Upper Smithfield township, Punkey's island and five bars.

[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 the following islands, viz.: opposite the county of Bucks and townships hereafter named, opposite to the Falls township, Bird's island opposite Lower Wakefield township, Slack's three islands, Dun's island and Harvey's lower island, opposite to Upper Makefield township, Harvey's upper island and Lowne's island, opposite to Solesbury township, Smith island and bar and Paxton's island and bar, opposite to Tinnicum township, Prall's two islands, Wall's island, Resolution island, Marshall's island, Wall's two islands, Fishing island and Pennington's island, opposite to Nockamixon township, Laughly's island, and op-

posite the county of Northampton and the townships hereafter named, that is to say, opposite to William's township, Pohatcung island, Shoemaker island, and Loor's island, opposite to the Forks township, Easton island, opposite to Mount Bethel, Mason's island and bar, Mason's island, Foul Rift island, McIlhenney's island and Attin's two islands, opposite to Lower Smithfield, Handie's island and bar, Goodwin's two islands, Shawanaugh island and bar, Vancampen's island, Nicholas Depuy's two islands and bars, Chambers' island and Vanoken's island, opposite to Delaware township, Swartwood island and Isaac Vancampen's island, opposite to Upper Smithfield township, Punkey's island and five bars lying and being within the bed of the river Delaware, and between the shores of the same river and northerly of the Falls of Trenton, so ascertained and distinguished by the commissioners last mentioned as parts and parcels of this state, shall be forever henceforth deemed, adjudged and established to belong to this state and shall be subject to the jurisdiction thereof as of the bodies of the counties and townships or the precincts of the same to which the said islands together with all other dry land within the bed of the same river belonging to this state are by this act or by virtue of this act shall be annexed.

And to the end that justice may be done in cases civil as well as criminal and against persons offending upon the said river or upon any island or dry land within the same, and belonging to this commonwealth:

[Section II.] (Section III. P.L.) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the bed of the same river and the islands and dry land within the same so as aforesaid assigned to and belonging to this state lying and being northerly of a northeasterly line from the extremity of the boundary line between the counties of Bucks and Northampton at the bank of the river Delaware to be extended across the said river unto the shore of New Jersey shall be deemed to be and shall be henceforth part of the county of Northampton and of the several adjoining townships and precincts of the same county lying along the said river, and that the bed of the said river

and the islands and dry land within the same so as aforesaid assigned and belonging to this state, lying southerly of the line last aforesaid across the said river and northerly of a line from the extremity of the boundary of the counties of Bucks and Philadelphia at the bank of the river Delaware, across the said river by a south south-east course to the shore of the state of New Jersey are annexed to and shall be deemed to be and shall henceforth be parts of the county of Bucks and of the several adjoining townships and precincts of the same county lying along the said river.

(Section IV. P.L.) And that the bed of the same river and the islands and dry land lying within same, so as aforesaid assigned to this state lying and being northerly of a line from the extremity of the boundary line of the counties of Philadelphia and Chester at the bank of the river Delaware to be extended across the same river by a south south-east course to the shore of the state of New Jersey are annexed to and shall be deemed to be and shall henceforth be parts of the county of Philadelphia and of the several adjoining townships and precincts of the same county lying along said river.

(Section V. P.L.) And that the residue of the bed of the same river and the islands and dry land within the same so as aforesaid assigned to this state and being southwesterly of the line herein last before described are annexed to and shall be deemed to be and shall henceforth be parts of the county of Chester and of the several adjoining townships and precincts within the same county.

(Section VI. P.L.) Provided nevertheless, That the whole of Hog island which lies opposite to the said boundary of Philadelphia and Chester counties and of the marshes surrounding the said island is hereby annexed to and shall be deemed part of the county of Chester and of the nearest township of the same county.

[Section III.] (Section VII. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the jurisdiction of this commonwealth and of the respective counties to which the bed of the same river and the islands and dry land within the same is by this act annexed as aforesaid as far as the same shall be

consistent with the agreement hereinbefore recited made between the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey shall be full and complete and all writs and warrants and process duly issued within the said counties respectively shall have force and operation and may be executed within the river, island and dry land as parts of the same counties by the proper sheriffs and other officers of the same counties. And if any difficulty arise concerning the townships to which the said islands or other dry land within the said river belongs the same shall be adjusted by the justices of the peace of the proper county at their general quarter sessions and they shall determine the same so that no island in the said river be divided between two townships or precincts but the same shall be annexed to the township which would, by dividing the same be entitled to the major part of such island.

[Section IV.] (Section VIII. P.L.) And be it further enacted by the authority [aforesaid,] That the president in council shall direct the respective commissioners of the several counties aforesaid to have the lines aforesaid across the Delaware ascertained and fixed by lasting marks on the shore of the Delaware river at the charge of the adjoining counties.

Passed 25th September, 1786. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 130, etc.

CHAPTER MCCXLVI.

AN ACT FOR THE MORE SPEEDY AND EFFECTUAL ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

(Section I. P.L.) Whereas the practice of commencing all civil suits and actions in the county court of common pleas hath been found productive of great delay and expense in the administration of justice especially within the city and county of Philadelphia, wherein the number of suits has of late years [greatly] increased:

For remedy whereof:

[Section I.] (Section II. P.L.) Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Com-