

CHAPTER MCCCXCVI.

AN ACT TO REPEAL ALL THE LAWS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH REQUIRING ANY OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE FROM THE HABITANTS THEREOF.

Whereas by several acts of the general assembly of this commonwealth sundry oaths or affirmations of allegiance, abjuration and fidelity have been from time to time required of the citizens thereof, which, however proper and expedient they might be during the late war when it was necessary for individuals to testify their attachment to one or the other of the contending parties, since the restoration of peace and the establishment of government have become unnecessary:

[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 from and after the passing of this act as well the act of Assembly entitled, "An act to alter the test of allegiance to this commonwealth required by an act passed the fourth day of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six entitled, 'An act for securing to this commonwealth the fidelity and allegiance of the inhabitants thereof and for admitting certain persons to the rights of citizenship'¹ as all other acts which require any oath or affirmation of allegiance or fidelity to this commonwealth from the subjects or inhabitants thereof or of abjuration or renunciation of any foreign power, or as impose or inflict any penalty or disability on any person or persons by means of his or their having refused or neglected to take and subscribe any such oath or affirmation shall be and they are hereby repealed.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this act all persons who from not having taken the said oaths or affirmations or abjuration, allegiance or fidelity were, by [the] force and operation of the acts of Assembly thereunto

¹ Passed March 29, 1787, Chapter 1294.

relating, excluded from certain privileges and exempted from certain burdens, shall be and they are hereby restored to and placed upon the same footing as to such privileges and burdens and in all other respects with the other citizens of this state.

[Section III.] (Section IV, P. L.) Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to extend to, alter or affect the forty-second section of the plan or frame of government of this commonwealth, but that every such foreigner as is in the said section mentioned, who shall come to settle in this state, shall, after one year's residence therein, be entitled to the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges therein specified upon taking and subscribing before the mayor, recorder or some alderman of the city of Philadelphia or before some justice of the peace within this state the following oath (or affirmation if conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath) viz: "I —————do swear (or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a free and independent state, and that I will not at any time wilfully and knowingly do any matter or thing prejudicial or injurious to the freedom and independence thereof."

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said mayor, recorder and each and every alderman and justice of the peace before whom such oath or affirmation shall be taken and subscribed, shall keep a fair register of the names and additions of the persons so sworn or affirmed and of the names and additions of their parents and of the country, town and place of their nativity and of that from which they shall have last arrived and of the time of every such oath or affirmation being taken and shall on or before the first day of October in every year transmit in writing under his or their hands and seals to the office of recorder of deeds of his proper county a true list of such persons as shall have so sworn or affirmed before him since the transmitting of his last list as aforesaid, together with the names, additions and descriptions aforesaid, for which and for

the certificate that such person hath so sworn or affirmed, the said mayor, recorder, alderman or justice shall receive from the party the sum of seven shillings and six-pence and no more.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said recorder of deeds shall record such lists with the said names, additions and descriptions in their respective counties in books kept for that purpose and shall for each person thereby certified to have taken the said oath or affirmation be paid two shillings and six-pence by the said mayor, recorder, alderman or justice who shall transmit such lists and no more.

Passed March 13, 1789. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 476.

CHAPTER MCCCXCVII.

AN ACT TO SUSPEND THE SALE OF LANDS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the act to suspend the powers of the commissioners of the several counties within this state to make sale of unseated lands for non-payment of taxes will by its own limitation expire [on] the twenty-second day of this instant March, and as the legislature have it in contemplation to establish a mode of collecting the public taxes less burdensome and oppressive than the present, it is reasonable that the suspension aforesaid should be further continued and also be extended to all other lands.

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) 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 commissioners of the several counties within this state be and they are hereby further restricted and prohibited from making sale of any lands whatsoever in their respective counties by reason of the non-payment