

CHAPTER MCDXXX.

AN ACT TO GRANT AND SECURE TO ROBERT LESLIE FOR A LIMITED TIME THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE RIGHT AND BENEFIT OF CONSTRUCTING, MAKING AND SELLING WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH THE IMPROVEMENTS BY HIM LATELY INVENTED ON CLOCKS AND WATCHES.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas it appears to this house that Robert Leslie of the city of Philadelphia, clock and watch maker, hath invented and discovered sundry improvements upon clocks and watches which are described as follows, that is to say: three methods of communicating the motion from the movements of a clock to the pendulum in such manner that no change or action of the weather can increase or diminish its swing or vibration.

A scapement for clocks which gives both beats the same power and advantage. An improvement upon horizontal watches by which both beats are inside of the cylinder, which reduces the friction and gives a greater motion to the balance.

A balance wheel and cylinder which have every advantage of the last above mentioned improvement.

A balance wheel and verge with spiral wings or pallets which give a large motion to the balance, And,

A cycloid curb which causes all the vibrations of the balance whether long or short to be performed in the same space of time. Draughts or drawings of all which he hath deposited in the prothonotary's office for the city and county of Philadelphia. And the said Robert Leslie by his said petitions did pray this house to grant him, his executors, administrators and assigns the exclusive right and benefit of constructing, making and vending his said inventions and improvements for a certain term of years:

And whereas it is just and right to reward the inventors of useful improvements:

Therefore:

[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 from and after the passing of this act the said Robert Leslie, his executors, administrators and assigns shall have the sole and exclusive right and benefit of constructing, making and selling within this Commonwealth all and every the invention and improvements or any of them made thereto for and during the full space and term of fourteen years from thence next ensuing.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall make, sell or use or cause to be made, sold or used within this commonwealth, any clock or clocks, watch or watches, or any other time piece by any other name or description which shall have the inventions or improvements before described or any of them during the said term of fourteen years without the consent of the said Robert Leslie, his executors, administrators or assigns in writing first had and obtained, he, she, or they so offending shall forfeit unto the said Robert Leslie, his executors, administrators or assigns, all and every such clock and clocks, watch or watches and other timepiece by any other name or description so made or sold or used or caused to be made, sold or used which shall have the said inventions and improvements or any of them made thereto as aforesaid. And moreover shall forfeit and pay unto the said Robert Leslie his executors, administrators or assigns for every such clock, watch or timepiece so made, sold or used or caused to be made, sold or used, respectively, which shall have the said inventions and improvements or any of them made thereto as aforesaid contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, the sum of twenty pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to be recovered by the said Robert Leslie, his executors, administrators or assigns with costs of suit by action of debt, bill, plaint or information in any court of record within this commonwealth or elsewhere, wherein no essoign, protection or wager of law nor more than one imparlance shall be allowed.

[Section III.] Provided always nevertheless, That if any

person or persons shall at any time hereafter within the term aforesaid claim to have invented or used the same improvements or any or either of them before the said Robert Leslie, it shall be lawful for him or them so claiming or for his or their executors or administrators to sue forth and prosecute one or more writ or writs of scire facias returnable before the justices of the supreme court of this commonwealth to be devised or approved by the chief justice or one of the justices of the said court, warning the said Robert Leslie, his executors, administrators or assigns then having the sole and exclusive right aforesaid, to be and appear before the said justices at the next supreme court to be held for the said commonwealth to show cause why the grant of the said sole and exclusive right and benefit of constructing, making and selling such invention, improvement or improvements should not be repealed and made void, and upon such writ the proceedings shall be such as in other suits of scire facias in the said court shall be used and accustomed and if judgment shall thereupon be rendered by default, confession or upon verdict or demurrer for the plaintiff, judgment shall be entered that so much of the grant herein contained as shall be alleged by the plaintiff and so confessed or found against the defendant shall be repealed and made null and void, and thenceforth so much of the said grant shall be and the same is hereby repealed and made null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever and the said court shall award such and the same costs to be recovered in the like manner as in other suits or actions brought and determined in the said court. And provided also, That in all suits or actions to be brought by the said Robert Leslie, his executors or assigns for any penalty or forfeiture in pursuance of this act it shall and may be lawful for the defendant or defendants to plead the general issue and give this act (and any special matter whereof notice shall be given to the plaintiff or his attorney at least sixty days before the trial) in evidence and if upon the trial it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the court and jury that the defendant or any other person whatsoever than the said Robert Leslie was the true and original inventor of the improvement or invention in question or had used the

same before the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, the verdict shall be found and judgment entered for the defendant and he shall be acquitted of all the penalties and forfeitures demanded against him and shall recover his costs and charges by him expended in defending such suit or action in the same manner as in other suits or actions determined in the same court.

Passed September 7, 1789. Recorded L. B. No. 3, p. 528.

CHAPTER MCDXXXI.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF JAMES PETTIGREW AN INSOLVENT DEBTOR IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON CONFINED IN THE GAOL OF SAID COUNTY.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas James Pettigrew late collector of excise of the county of Northampton hath set forth by his petition that he is confined in the gaol of the said county under execution at the suit of this commonwealth for arrearages due by him as the late collector of excise in the said county, which from a variety of misfortunes he is rendered unable to pay and hath prayed that an act may be passed extending to him the benefit of the insolvent laws and it appears to this house [that] the prayer of the petitioner ought to be granted:

[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 county court of common pleas of the county of Northampton upon the petition of James Pettigrew is hereby authorized and empowered to grant [him] relief with equal and like effect and upon the like terms and conditions as to the imprisonment of his person as is by the laws of this state afforded to insolvent debtors in cases of debts by them owing to private persons.

[Section II.] Provided, That the discharge of the said James Pettigrew shall not extend to exonerate, annul or lessen