

available in law to all intents and purposes, and the title thereby as complete and vested in the said corporation as if the same had been made to eight or more of the aforesaid congregation, according to the directions specified in the said indenture aforesaid.

Approved March 24, 1808. Recorded in L. B. No. 11, p. 210.

CHAPTER MMCMLVI.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON TO AFFIRM A CONTRACT MADE WITH JACOB STROUD.

Whereas it has been represented, that in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, the commissioners of the county of Northampton, in pursuance of the directions of the court and grand jury, made a contract in writing, with a certain John Stroud to build a stone bridge over Jones's creek, in lower Smithfield township; that the first payment was received from the commissioners by John Stroud, according to agreement, the bridge was built and fell as soon as completed, owing to the bad quality of the stone of which it was composed, though the best the country for some miles afforded were made use of; that two of the commissioners for the year one thousand eight hundred and five, convinced, by an examination of the premises and a full enquiry, that materials for erecting a durable stone bridge could not be had in the neighborhood, made a parole agreement with Jacob Stroud, (to whom John Stroud had assigned his contract) for the erection of a wooden bridge, with stone abutments, instead of the stone bridge that had fallen, and to pay him the amount which the said bridge should cost, after deducting the sum already paid to John Stroud; that the said Jacob Stroud prepared the principal and most expensive part of the materials for the execution of his agreement, but the subsequent boards of commissioners have de-

clined to recognize the parole contract of one thousand eight hundred and five, conceiving that as the order of the court and grand jury was to build a stone bridge, they had no authority to substitute such contract, however expedient; that the said Jacob Stroud is since deceased, and the materials, thus collected, are in the hands of his executors John Starbird, James Hollinshead, and Peter Hollinshead, in a perishing condition; and that application was made to the court of quarter sessions of Northampton county, in November, one thousand eight hundred and seven, for relief in the premises, but without effect, the case not being provided for by the laws of this commonwealth: And whereas the said John Starbird, James Hollinshead and Peter Hollinshead, executors as aforesaid, have, under these circumstances, prayed that a law may be passed authorizing the commissioners of the county of Northampton to affirm and recognize the said parole contract: Therefore,

Section I. (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the commissioners of the county of Northampton, be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, if they shall deem it for the interest of the county, to recognize and affirm the parole contract entered into by the commissioners of said county, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, with Jacob Stroud, as assignee of John Stroud, for building a wooden bridge with stone abutments, instead of the stone bridge which John Stroud originally contracted to build over Jones's creek, near Stroud's mill, in said county, as fully to all intents and purposes, and with the like force and effect, as if the said parole contract had been conformable to the order of the court, and in all respects according to law.