

ury within two years from the time of passing said act, the balance of the aforesaid debt, viz. the sum of two thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars. And whereas it has been represented to the legislature, that the payment of the money within the time stipulated would, from a variety of unforeseen circumstances, be an oppressive inconvenience to the citizens of Luzerne: 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 time allowed to the commissioners of Luzerne county, by an act passed the nineteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and seven,<sup>(1)</sup> for the payment of a certain sum of money be, and the same is hereby extended in the following manner, that is to say, They shall pay or cause to be paid, into the state treasury on or before the first day of June next, one thousand dollars, and the remaining sum of one thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars, on or before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ten, with interest: Provided always, that in case of failure to comply with the provisions of this act, the grant of two thousand dollars heretofore made to the trustees of Wilkesbarre Academy, shall revert to the commonwealth, and the commissioners of said county shall thereupon forthwith pay or cause to be paid over to the state treasurer, the full sum of four thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars.

Approved March 16, 1809. Recorded in L. B. No. 11, p. 300.

Note (1). Chapter 2790; Supra this volume, p. 422.

---

## CHAPTER MMMLI.

---

### AN ACT CONCERNING LIBELS.

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 from and after the passing of this act no person shall be subject to prosecution by indictment in any of the courts of this commonwealth, for the publication of papers examining the proceedings of the legislature or any branch of government, or for investigating the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity.

Section II. (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all actions or criminal prosecutions of a libel, the defendant may plead the truth thereof in justification or give the same in evidence, and if any prosecution by indictment, or any action be instituted against any person or persons contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, the defendant or defendants in such action or indictment may plead this act in bar, or give the same in evidence on the plea of not guilty: Provided, that this act shall be and continue in force for the term of three years, and from thence to the end of the next session of the legislature.

Approved March 16, 1809. Recorded in L. B. No. 11, p. 300.

---

## CHAPTER MMLLII.

---

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO INCORPORATE A COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING AN ARTIFICIAL ROAD FROM THE PHILADELPHIA AND LANCASTER TURNPIKE ROAD, BETWEEN THE TWENTY-THIRD MILESTONE AND THE ADMIRAL WARREN TAVERN, TO THE POINT WHERE THE READING ROAD INTERSECTS THE MORGANTOWN ROAD, TO THE WEST OF JONES' TAVERN IN BERKS COUNTY.

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 Michael Gunkle, Isaiah Kirk, Rees John, John Smith, Samuel Laverty, Thomas Bull, Doctor James M'Farland, James, John and Col. William Harris, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to do and