

CHAPTER CCCLXXXVIII.

1750.

An ACT for the more effectual preventing accidents which may happen by fire, and for suppressing idleness, drunkenness, and other debaucheries. (r)

TO the end the provisions already made by our laws, for preventing accidents which may happen by fire in the city of Philadelphia, and several other boroughs and towns, within this province, may be made more generally useful, and to prevent, as much as in us lies, the growing sins of idleness, drunkenness, and other debaucheries, too frequent among us, *Be it enacted*, That if any person or persons whatsoever, within any county town, or within any other town or borough, in this province, already built and settled, or hereafter to be built and settled, not hitherto restricted nor provided for by our laws, shall set on fire their chimnies to cleanse them, or shall suffer them or any of them to take fire, and blaze out at the top, or shall fire any gun or other fire-arm, or shall make, or cause to be made, or sell or utter, or offer to expose to sale, any squibs, rockets or other fire-works, or shall cast, throw or fire any squibs, rockets or other fire-works, within any of the said towns or boroughs, without the Governor's special licence for the same, every such person or persons, so offending, shall be subject to the like penalties and forfeitures, and to be recovered in like manner, as in and by an act, passed in the eighth year of the reign of King George the first, entitled, *An act for preventing accidents that may happen by fire*, are directed to be levied and recovered. (s)

Passed 9th February, 1750-1.—Recorded A. vol. III. page 240.

(r) For a general reference to the acts for preventing accidents by fire, see ante. chap. 245. (Note to former edition.)

(s) This section as far as it relates to firing chimnies, is repealed and supplied, chap. 1307.

The remaining sections of this act, prohibiting horse-races, shooting matches, &c. have been superseded and supplied by the act for the suppression of vice and immorality, chap. 1747. (Note to former edition.)

CHAPTER CCCXC.

An ACT to encourage the establishing of an Hospital, for the relief of the sick poor of this province, and for the reception and cure of lunaticks.

WHEREAS the saving and restoring useful and laborious members to a community is a work of public service, and the relief of the sick poor is not only an act of humanity, but a religious duty: And whereas there are frequently in many parts of this province poor distempered persons, who languish long in pain and misery, under various disorders of body and mind, and being scattered abroad in different and very distant habitations, cannot have the benefit of regular advice, attendance, lodging, diet and medicines, but at a great expense, and therefore often suffer for want thereof: which inconveniency might be happily removed by collecting the

Former laws
against firing
chimnies,
guns, fire-
works, &c.
extended.

patients into one common provincial Hospital, properly disposed and appointed, where they may be comfortably subsisted, and their health taken care of, at a small charge, and where, by the blessing of God on the endeavours of skilful physicians and surgeons, their diseases may be cured and removed: And whereas it is represented to this Assembly, that there is a charitable disposition in divers inhabitants of this province to contribute largely towards so good a work, if such contributors might be incorporated, with proper powers and privileges for carrying on and compleating the same, and some part of the public money given and appropriated to the providing a suitable building for the purposes aforesaid: Therefore, for the encouragement of so useful, pious, and charitable a design, we pray that it may be enacted, *And be it enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all persons, each of whom shall have contributed or subscribed the sum of ten pounds, or more, towards founding and establishing an Hospital, for the reception and relief of lunaticks, and other distempered and sick poor within this province, or as many of them as shall think fit, to assemble and meet on the first day of the month called July next; and for all persons, who shall thereafter contribute the like sum of ten pounds, or more, together with the said first subscribers, or so many of them as shall think fit, to assemble and meet on the second day of the first week in the month called May yearly, for ever, at some convenient place in the city of Philadelphia, then and there to elect, by ballot, twelve fit and suitable persons, of their own number, to be managers of the said contribution and Hospital, and one other person to be Treasurer of the same, until the next election; and farther to make such laws, rules and orders, as shall appear to them, the said contributors met, or the major part of them, to be good, useful and necessary, for the well governing, ordering and regulating the said Hospital, and for the regulation of the future elections of Managers, Treasurer, and other necessary officers and ministers thereof, and for limiting and appointing their number, trust and authority; and generally for the well ordering all other things concerning the government, estate, goods, lands, revenues, as also all the business and affairs of the said Hospital: All which laws, rules and orders, so to be made as aforesaid, shall be from time to time inviolably observed by all concerned, according to the tenor and effect of them, provided they be not repugnant to the laws of England, or this government, and are approved by the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Attorney General of this province for the time being, under their hands and seals. And the said contributors shall be, and are hereby made a body corporate in law, to all intents and purposes, and shall have perpetual succession, and may sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded, by the name of the Contributors to the Pennsylvania Hospital, in all Courts of Judicature within this province; and by that name shall and may receive and take any lands, tenements or hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of one thousand pounds, of the gift, alienation, bequest or devise of any person or persons whomsoever, and of any goods or chattels whatsoever; and the said Contributors are hereby empowered to have and use one common seal in their affairs, and the same at their pleasure to change and alter.

1751.

Persons contributing ten pounds to meet yearly:

and to elect managers, &c. and make laws, &c.

Contributors made a Corporation.

Limitation of their estate.

1751.

Money given
to the capital
stock not to
be expended.

II. Provided nevertheless, That no general meeting of the said Contributors, nor any persons acting under them, shall employ any money, or other estate, expressly given or added to the capital stock of the said Hospital, in any other way than by applying its annual interest or rent towards the entertainment and care of the sick and distressed poor, that shall be from time to time brought and placed therein, for the cure of their diseases, from any part of this province, without partiality or preference.

Two thousand
pounds
expectant
given to the
use of the
Hospital.

III. And for the farther encouragement of this beneficent undertaking, Be it enacted, That when the said contributors, shall have met, and chosen their Managers and Treasurer as aforesaid, and shall have raised, by their contributions, a capital stock of two thousand pounds value (the yearly interest or rent of which is to be applied to the accommodating of the sick poor in the said Hospital, free of charge for diet, attendance, advice and medicines) and shall make the same appear to the satisfaction of the Speaker of the Assembly for the time being, that then it shall and may be lawful for the said Speaker of the Assembly, and he is hereby required, to sign an order or orders on the Provincial Treasurer, or Trustees of the Loan Office, for the payment of two thousand pounds, in two yearly payments, to the Treasurer of the said Hospital, to be applied to the founding, building and furnishing of the same.

Accounts to
be published
in the Gazette
yearly.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the accounts of the disbursements of the said two thousand pounds, so ordered by the Speaker of the Assembly aforesaid, or any part thereof that shall be hereafter expended, as the case may be, and of the rents, products and interests of any real or personal estates or sums of money, charitably given to the use of the said Hospital, together with a list of such donations, shall be fairly drawn out, and published annually in the Gazette or other news-papers; and the Managers of the said Hospital shall, at all times when required, submit the books, accounts, affairs and economy thereof, to the inspection and free examination of such visitors, as may from time to time be appointed by the Assembly of this province to visit and inspect the same.

V. Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted, That if at any time hereafter there should not be a constant succession of Contributors to meet yearly, and choose Managers as aforesaid, then the said Hospital, and the estate and affairs thereof, shall be in the management and under the direction of such persons, as shall be from time to time appointed by act of General Assembly of this province for that purpose.

Passed 11th May, 1751.—Recorded A. vol. III. page 245. (t)

(t) By an act to extend the benefits experienced from the institution of the Pennsylvania Hospital, passed April 11th, 1793, (post. chap. 1683,) § 26,666, 67 cents, were granted to the contributors, out of the arrears due to the Commonwealth under the Loan Office act of February 26th, 1773, and the State Treasurer was directed to pay to the Treasurer of the Hospital all monies on that account received by him since the first day of January preceding, and

assign to the managers the mortgages and securities upon which any thing remained due. The managers to give security to use the utmost of their endeavours to collect the money, and after satisfying the grant, to pay the surplus to the State Treasurer. The managers were appointed trustees of the Loan Office, &c. and were directed to apply the money granted to erect additional buildings, and to render an account annually to the Legislature. Unclaimed

dividends of bankrupts' estates to be paid to them by the Commissioners of Bankrupts, the contributors to be liable therefor, when claimed, &c. The managers empowered to establish a Lying-in, and Foundling Hospital.

By a supplement to the above act, passed April 4th, 1796, (post. chap. 1897,) an additional grant of 25,000 dollars was made to the institution, to enable the contributors to finish the buildings, &c. and the managers directed to lay the accounts annually before the Legislature, till the same shall have been completed.

By another supplement, passed April 4th, 1805, (post. chap. 2600,) which recites that the managers had received the amount of the first grant; and faithfully applied the same. The act authorises a re-assignment of the mortgages, securities, &c. to the state treasurer, who is authorised to collect the balances for the use of the State.

Post. chap. 439, sect. 14, certain penalties appropriated to the Pennsylvania Hospital, page 225.

See, *Pennsylvania Hospital*,—*Health Office*, in the general index to this edition.

1754

CHAPTER CCCXCI.

An ACT for repealing an act, entitled A Supplement to the act, entitled An Act for imposing a duty on persons convicted of heinous crimes, and to prevent poor and impotent persons being imported into this province.

BE it enacted, That an act of the General Assembly of this province, passed in the twenty-third year of the reign of the present King, entitled, **A Supplement to the act, entitled An Act for imposing a duty on persons convicted of heinous crimes, and to prevent poor and impotent persons being imported into this province*, and every clause, matter and thing, therein contained, shall be, and is hereby repealed, utterly made null and void.

*Chap. 347.
Original act,
chap. 314.
See the existing act,
March 27th,
1789, (chap.
1403.

Passed 24th August, 1751.—Recorded A. vol. III. page 248.