

to the court so far as they may relate to the staying or prosecuting such suit or suits, and in no other case whatsoever; excepting in such cases wherein they may be considered by the court as legal evidence.

[Section III.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall be and continue in force for the term of eighteen months from the publication hereof and from thence to the end of the next sitting of the general assembly and no longer.

Passed November 29, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 31, etc.

CHAPTER M.

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE ERECTING ANY NEW AND INDEPENDENT STATE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas by the separation of the thirteen United States from Great Britain the commonwealth of Pennsylvania hath become a sovereign and independent state, and in consequence of such separation a government established solely on the authority of the people hath been formed, and it being evident that every county hath by the constitution or by-laws enacted for that purpose an incontestible right to send deputies to represent them in the general assembly, and that they have exercised that right, they being now actually represented in this house, therefore all the inhabitants of this commonwealth as they are under the protection of its laws are bound by and do owe allegiance thereto:

(Section II, P. L.) And whereas great exertions have been made for the defense of the frontiers and large sums expended therein, notwithstanding the embarrassments and difficulties under which the commonwealth hath, and still doth labor in its finances:

(Section III, P. L.) And whereas this commonwealth is indebted to the late proprietaries of Pennsylvania in a large sum of money payable at the end of the war, and each and every coun-

ty ought to contribute its just part or proportion for that end, and the unlocated lands within this state are, and always have been considered a valuable fund towards paying and discharging the said debt:

(Section IV, P. L.) And whereas notwithstanding the premises this house hath received information that divers ill disposed persons, setting at naught every principle of public virtue and pursuing their ambitious and interested views, have caused great uneasiness among the good people of this state by manifesting the most criminal design of setting up a distinct state or government within this commonwealth:

[Section I.] (Section V, 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 if any person or persons shall erect or form, or shall endeavor to erect or form any new and independent government within the boundaries of this commonwealth as described in the charter and settled between this state and the state of Virginia, such person or persons being thereof legally convicted in any court of oyer and terminer shall be adjudged guilty of high treason.

[Section II.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall set up any notice, written or printed, calling or requesting the people to meet together for the design or purpose of forming a new and independent government as aforesaid, such person or persons and all others who shall assemble themselves for that purpose in consequence of such notice shall be adjudged guilty of high treason.

[Section III.] (Section VII, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons at any meeting of the people convened for the purpose aforesaid or for any other purpose shall maliciously and advisedly recommend or desire them to erect or form any new government, in any part of this state, independent of the present, or shall read to them any new form of a constitution with design to induce them to adopt the same as a new and independent constitution, every such person or persons being thereof legally convicted shall be adjudged guilty of high treason.

[Section IV.] (Section VIII, P. L.) Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing contained in this act shall extend or be construed to extend to the dispute now subsisting between the State of Pennsylvania and the state of Connecticut respecting their limits, boundaries or jurisdiction.

[Section V.] (Section IX, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall commit any offence against this act, every such offender shall be tried in any county within this commonwealth if the supreme executive council shall think proper to order and direct said trial to be had in any other county than that in which the offence may have been committed.

[Section VI.] (Section X, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons who shall offend against this act and shall be thereof legally convicted by the evidence of two sufficient witnesses in any court of oyer and terminer within this commonwealth, he or they shall be adjudged guilty of high treason and shall suffer death, and his or their estate is hereby declared to be forfeited to this commonwealth.

(Section XI, P. L.) And in order the more effectually to prevent the mischiefs which this act is intended to guard against and remedy.

[Section VII.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the supreme executive council shall be and they are hereby enabled to call out the militia of such counties as they may think necessary, to prevent or suppress any attempts to set up a new and independent government in any county or counties within the boundaries of this commonwealth as above mentioned.

Passed December 3, 1782. Recorded L. B. No. 2, p. 33, etc. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed March 31, 1860, Chapter 376, P. L. of 1860, p. 452. Section V was repealed by the act of August 31, 1785, Chapter 1168.