

the British army, with whom the said Jonas did leave the State and has not yet returned, leaving his said wife and children in very great distress; and as it is reasonable and just that the real and personal estate of the said Jonas Bedford should be appropriated to the payment of his debts and to the use and support of his wife and children:

I. Be it therefore Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, That the said Mercy Bedford be enabled and empowered to sell the personal estate of the said Jonas Bedford, and to collect the debts due to her said husband, and after paying the debts due from the said Jonas, to apply the balance, together with the said personal estate or amount thereof to the support of herself and children.

II. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the heirs of the said Jonas and Mercy Bedford be, and they are hereby vested with absolute Right in fee simple, of and to all the landed estate of the said Jonas Bedford in as full and ample manner as they could have been by a deed of gift to them for the same from their said father Jonas Bedford. (Passed December 29, 1785.)

#### CHAPTER XLII.

An Act to Restore to Edward Bridgin, His Heirs and Assigns, all His Property, Real and Personal, in This State.

Whereas the estate of Edward Bridgin, merchant of London, hath been confiscated by the laws of this State, and whereas a committee of the General Assembly have reported they are of opinion that the said Edward Bridgin is entitled to every indulgence of the Legislature:

I. Be it therefore Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, That all the real and personal estate of the said Edward Bridgin, lying and being in this State, confiscated as aforesaid, and as yet undisposed of, and the amount of purchase money or obligations for such part as has been sold, be and is hereby restored to him, his heirs and assigns, and shall not be liable to the operation of any confiscation law heretofore made. (Passed December 29, 1785.)

#### CHAPTER XLIII.

An Act to Release Certain Persons Therein Mentioned, from Judgments on Forfeited Recognizances, and to Impower the Judges to Suspend Judgments Hereafter to Be Given in Like Cases.

Whereas Simon Terrell and Joseph Kirk were bound by recognizance in a sum of currency equal to about two hundred and sixty pounds specie, for the appearance of a certain William Rains, before the superior court of Hillsborough district, to answer certain charges then to be exhibited against him; and whereas it is fully and clearly represented to this General Assembly that the said Simon Terrell and Joseph Kirk, did deliver the body of the said William in open court, agreeable to the tenor of their said recognizance that neither prosecutor or evidences appearing against the said William, he was discharged from the bar, paying fees; which delivery and discharge the clerk of said court failed to record so that said

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recognizance



was apparently forfeited and judgment passed thereon, and the effects of the said Simon and Joseph are now liable to be sold by execution to satisfy the said judgment; and whereas it is further represented that the said Simon and Joseph are men with families and but very moderate fortunes, and that the execution of the said judgment would unjustly distress them and their families:

I. Be it Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, That the said Simon Terrell and Joseph Kirk, be and they are hereby released, and fully and entirely discharged from the forfeiture and judgment aforesaid, in the same manner as if the said forfeiture and judgment had never happened.

II. And be it further Enacted, That John Jones of Rutherford county shall be and is hereby released from a judgment given on a forfeited recognizance for the appearance of James Armstrong, in the superior court of Morgan district, it having been made manifest to this Assembly that the said John Jones was rendered unable by the loss of his eyes, before the day of appearance mentioned in the said recognizance, to produce the body of the principal.

III. And be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever it may appear to any judge or judges of the superior courts of law and equity, on any recognizance in their court adjudicated as forfeited, that there is much hardship in the case, then it may be lawful for such judge to suspend executions thereon; and when the same shall have been so suspended, a state of the case shall be sent by the judge or judges to the next General Assembly, who thereupon are finally to determine. (Passed December 29, 1785.)

#### CHAPTER XLIV.

An Act for Appointing a Treasurer in the District of Edenton, for the Purpose of Calling to Account the Commissioners for Building a Public Gaol in the District Aforesaid.

Whereas the ruinous condition of the public gaol in the district of Edenton, and the earnest desire of the representatives of the people of that district for erecting a public gaol for the security of felons and others, have heretofore induced the General Assembly to pass different Acts, therein laying a tax on the inhabitants of that district for the purpose aforesaid, and appointing commissioners for receiving and applying the said tax, which have not answered the good purposes expected:

I. Be it therefore Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby Enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, Thomas Vail, Esq., be and is hereby appointed treasurer for the district and purposes aforesaid, who is hereby vested with full power and authority to call to account the present and all former commissioners, all collectors and sheriffs who heretofore and since the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, have been empowered by law for the purpose of collecting the said gaol tax, within the district aforesaid; and in case of the refusal or neglect of the commissioners, sheriffs and collectors or either of them, to render a just account of their transactions to the treasurer aforesaid, and to pay the balance of their respective accounts, in such case the treasurer is hereby empowered