

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1847.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February 26, 1840,
and March 16, 1842.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1847.

PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1847.

SECT. 1. If any person duly summoned and obliged to attend as a witness in any causes or matter depending before any justice of the peace, or judge of any municipal or police court, and shall fail so to do, without any reasonable excuse, such person shall be liable to the aggrieved party for all damages by him sustained by such default, and such justice, or judge of such court, shall have power to issue a *capias*, directed to a proper officer to apprehend such witness and bring him before such justice or judge, and to fine him at discretion, not exceeding the sum of twenty dollars, and order him to pay the cost of such attachment, and commit him until the same and all costs attending such commitment shall be paid.

CHAP. 10.

Liability of any person failing to appear before any justice of the peace or judge of any municipal or police court, when duly summoned as a witness.

SECT. 2. If such witness, being present before such justice or judge, shall refuse to answer such questions as may be propounded to him under the direction of such justice or judge, he may fine such witness at discretion, not exceeding twenty dollars, and commit him until the same and all costs attending such commitment shall be paid.

If present, and refuses to give evidence, penalty.

[Approved June 25, 1847.]

Chapter 10.

An act to increase the salary of the judge of probate for the county of Washington.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

The salary of the judge of probate for the county of Washington shall be three hundred dollars per annum, instead of the salary to which said officer is entitled by the one hundred and fiftieth chapter of the revised statutes.

Salary, \$300.

[Approved July 3, 1847.]

Chapter 11.

An act additional to section thirty-eight of chapter one hundred and fourteen of the revised statutes, exempting certain property from attachment and execution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

The following goods and property belonging to any debtor, shall be exempt from attachment and execution; that is to say, one ox

Property exempt from attachment.

CHAP. 12. yoke, with bows, ring and staple, suitable therefor, all of the value of three dollars; two chains, each of the value of three dollars; and one ox sled, of the value of ten dollars.

[Approved July 3, 1847.]

Chapter 12.

An act in relation to the support of paupers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Not lawful for any pauper to be set up and bid off by way of auction for support or service.

Proviso.

SECT. 1. It shall not be lawful for the inhabitants of any town in this state, by its overseers or otherwise, to permit any poor and indigent persons, chargeable to such town, to be set up and bid off by way of auction, either for support or service: *provided* nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent any town from contracting for the support of their poor by receiving proposals therefor, reserving to themselves the right to judge of the fitness of the person making the proposal.

SECT. 2. All acts and parts of acts, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

[Approved July 3, 1847.]

Chapter 13.

An act additional to chapter eighty-nine of the revised statutes, respecting divorce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

When the justices of the S. J. court may decree a divorce from the bonds of matrimony.

SECT. 1. The justices of the supreme judicial court are authorized and empowered, at any term of said court, holden by a majority of the justices thereof, to decree a divorce from the bond of matrimony in all cases not now provided for by law, when there is no collusion between the parties for the purpose of procuring a divorce, when a majority of all said justices, in the exercise of a sound discretion, shall deem it reasonable and proper, conducive to domestic harmony, and consistent with the peace and morality of society, that a divorce should be granted.

Power to impose terms in regard to the future support of the wife, &c.

SECT. 2. In such cases, the said justices shall have the same authority to impose terms in regard to the future support of the