

When all the towns are not in same county.

SECT. 3. Whenever all of the towns required by law to maintain or repair any such bridge are not in the same county, the county commissioners of that county in which either of the said towns is situated, to whom application shall be first made, shall have exclusive jurisdiction of the subject matter of such application. [*Approved by the Governor, May 18, 1852.*]

### Chap. 239

An Act to incorporate the Chelmsford Agricultural Society.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

Corporators.

SECT. 1. John C. Bartlett, Asa Hodgman, 2d, and Edwin H. Warren, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Chelmsford Agricultural Society, for the encouragement of agriculture and the mechanic arts, by premiums, and other means, in the town of Chelmsford, in the county of Middlesex; with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities, and restrictions, of other incorporated agricultural societies in this Commonwealth. [*Approved by the Governor, May 18, 1852.*]

In town of Chelmsford, with usual powers, &c.

### Chap. 240

An Act concerning the Attendance of Children at School.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

Children must attend school at least twelve weeks of the year.

SECT. 1. Every person who shall have any child under his control, between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall send such child to some public school within the town or city in which he resides, during at least twelve weeks, if the public schools within such town or city shall be so long kept, in each and every year during which such child shall be under his control, six weeks of which shall be consecutive.

For violation, §20.

SECT. 2. Every person who shall violate the provisions of the first section of this act shall forfeit, to the use of such town or city, a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

School committee to inquire into violations and causes.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the school committee in the several towns or cities to inquire into all cases of violation of the first section of this act, and to ascertain of the persons violating the same, the reasons, if any, for such violation, and they shall report such cases, together with such reasons, if any, to the town or city in their annual report; but they shall not report any cases such as are provided for by the fourth section of this act.

SECT. 4. If, upon inquiry by the school committee, it shall appear, or if upon the trial of any complaint or indictment under this act it shall appear, that such child has attended some school, not in the town or city in which he resides, for the time required by this act, or has been otherwise furnished with the means of education for a like period of time, or has already acquired those branches of learning which are taught in common schools, or if it shall appear that his bodily or mental condition has been such as to prevent his attendance at school, or his acquisition of learning for such a period of time, or that the person having the control of such child, is not able, by reason of poverty, to send such child to school, or to furnish him with the means of education, then such person shall be held not to have violated the provisions of this act.

Attendance at any school in or out of town, no violation.

SECT. 5. It shall be the duty of the treasurer of the town or city to prosecute all violations of this act. [*Approved by the Governor, May 18, 1852.*]

Treasurer to prosecute.

An Act concerning Inventories in the Courts of Probate.

Chap. 241

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

SECT. 1. All inventories returned by administrators, executors, guardians, or trustees may be sworn to by said administrators, executors, guardians, or trustees before the registers of probate for the respective counties in which the same are returnable ; and such oath may be administered at all times, either in or out of the probate court, and shall have the same effect as if administered in court by the judge of probate.

May be sworn to before registers of probate at any time.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. [*Approved by the Governor, May 18, 1852.*]

Takes effect.

An Act concerning the State Prison at Charlestown.

Chap. 242

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

SECT. 1. The warden of the State prison is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint two officers as turnkeys in addition to the number now authorized by law.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. [*Approved by the Governor, May 18, 1852.*]