CHAP. CLXXXV. — *An Act relating to Appeals and Writs of Error to the Supreme Court.*

March 2, 1867.

See *Ante*, p. 385.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That where any appeal or writ of error has been brought to the Supreme Court from any final judgment or decree of an inferior court of the United States for any judicial district in which, subsequently to the rendition of such judgment or decree, the regular sessions of such court have been suspended or interrupted by insurrection or rebellion, such appeal or writ of error shall be valid and effectual, notwithstanding the time limited by law for bringing the same may have previously expired; and in cases where no appeal or writ of error has been brought from any such judgment or decree, such appeal or writ of error may be brought within one year from the passage of this act. The provisions of this act shall not apply to any case in which the right to bring an appeal or writ of error had expired before such suspension or interruption of the regular sessions of the court.

Appeals or writs of error brought from districts in which the sessions of the courts have been interrupted, &c. to be valid, &c; may be brought within one year.

Act not to apply to certain cases.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That where an appeal has been or may be taken from any final judgment, decree, or order of the district court of the United States for any district to a circuit court, the cause appealed by consent of parties may be heard and disposed of by the circuit court held by the district judge at any time after the appeal, in case of the absence at such term of the Chief Justice of the United States or the associate justice allotted to those circuit courts for such district.

Appeals from district court to circuit court may, if parties agree, be disposed of at circuit court held by district judge, &c.

APPROVED, March 2, 1867.

CHAP. CLXXXVI. — *An Act to regulate the Disposition of an irregular Fund in the Custody of the Freedmen's Bureau.*

March 2, 1867.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the commissioner of the bureau of refugees, freedmen and abandoned lands reports a retained bounty fund, derived from a portion of the State bounties of certain colored soldiers enlisted in Virginia and North Carolina, during the years eighteen hundred and sixty-four and eighteen hundred and sixty-five; and by virtue of general order number ninety, department of Virginia and North Carolina, series of eighteen hundred and sixty-four, holden by the superintendent of freedmen's affairs, but turned over to the said freedmen's bureau upon its organization; and whereas the said commissioner has in possession the names of those soldiers from whom the said money was taken; and whereas he has uniformly returned the same upon the application or discovery of legal representatives, but retains a considerable portion thereof belonging to soldiers who are either deceased or who cannot be found: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the said commissioner of the bureau of refugees, freedmen and abandoned lands, or his successor in office, be, and he is hereby, constituted the lawful custodian of said retained bounty fund, and appointed trustee of the same for the benefit of said colored soldiers or their lawful representatives.

Commissioner of bureau of refugees, &c. constituted the custodian of retained bounty fund, and appointed trustee; may invest the fund, and for what purpose

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioner be, and he is hereby, specially authorized and empowered to invest the said fund, or any portion thereof, in bonds of the United States, for the exclusive benefit of the said colored soldiers or their legal representatives: *Provided, however*, That a sufficient amount of the same in cash be retained uninvested to meet all lawful claims thereupon that will probably be presented for payment: *And provided further*, That any portion of the said fund which may remain unexpended when the said bureau shall cease to exist shall be accounted for by said commissioner to the treasury of the United States.

Provisos.

APPROVED, March 2, 1867.

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