Anno vicesimo nono

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen, and the more speedy and effectual Manning His Majesty's Navy.



WHEREAS the unwarrantable Hostilities begun by the French, have necessarily engaged His Majesty in actual War with the French King in Defence of His Subjects, and the Rights and Possessions of His Crown: And whereas His Majesty has been pleased to notify the same by Proclamation, and a publick Declaration thereof, on the Seventeenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty six: Now, for the better carrying on the said War with Vigour, and for the Encouragement of the Officers and Seamen of His Majesty's Ships of War, and the Officers and Seamen of all other British Ships and Vessels, having Commissions and Letters of Marque, and for inducing all British Seamen, who may be in any Foreign Service, to return into this Kingdom, and become serviceable to His Majesty; and for the more effectual securing and extending the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects; be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual Preamble.

and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Flag Officers, Commanders, and other Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers, on Board every Ship and Vessel of War in His Majesty's Pay, shall have the sole Interest and Property of and in all and every Ship, Vessel, Goods, and Merchandizes, which they shall take, from and after the Seventeenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, during the Continuance of this War against France (being first adjudged lawful Prize in any of His Majesty's Courts of Admiralty in Great Britain, or in His Majesty's Plantations in America, or elsewhere) to be divided in such Proportions, and after such Manner, as His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, shall think fit to order and direct by Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be issued for those Purposes.

Prizes made by the King's Ships to be divided between the Captors,

In the Proportions His Majesty shall order by Proclamation.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, or the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, or any Three or more of them, or any Person or Persons by him or them impowered and appointed, shall, at the Request of any Owner or Owners of any Ship or Vessel, giving such Bail and Security as have been usually taken upon granting Commissions, or Letters of Marque (except only for the Payment of the Tenths of the Value of Prizes which shall be taken, to the Lord High Admiral, or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral for the time being) cause to be issued forth in the usual Manner, One or more Commission or Commissions to any Person or Persons, whom such Owner or Owners shall nominate to be Commander, or, in case of Death, successively, Commanders of such Ship or Vessel, for the attacking, surprizing, seizing, and taking, by and with such Ship or Vessel, or with the Crew thereof, any Place or Fortress upon the Land, or any Ship or Vessel, Goods, Ammunition, Arms, Stores of War, or Merchandize, belonging to, or possessed by, any of His Majesty's Enemies, in any Sea, Creek, Haven, or River; and that such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, Arms, Ammunition, Stores of War, Goods and Merchandizes whatsoever, with all their Furniture, Tackle, or Apparel so to be taken by or with such private Owner or Owners, Ship or Vessel, according to such Commission and Commissions (being first adjudged lawful Prize in any of His Majesty's Courts of Admiralty as aforesaid) shall wholly and entirely belong to and be divided between

Admiralty to issue Commissions to Privateers, they giving the usual Security.

Prizes made by them to be solely divided, according to private Contract, between Owners and Captors.

and among the Owner and Owners of such Ship or Vessel, and the several Persons which shall be on Board the same, and be aiding and assisting to the taking thereof, in such Shares and Proportions as shall be agreed on with the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Vessel as shall be the Captor thereof, their Agents or Factors, as the proper Goods and Chattles of such Owner or Owners, and the Persons that shall be thus entitled thereto, by virtue of such Agreements among themselves; and that neither His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or any Admiral, Vice Admiral, Governor, or other Person commissioned by or claiming under His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or any Person or Persons whatsoever, other than the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Vessel, being the Captor of such Prize, Ship, or Vessel, Arms, Ammunition, Stores of War, Goods and Merchandizes, and the Persons claiming under him or them, shall be entitled to any Part or Share thereof (except as to the Customs and Duties hereafter mentioned) any Custom, Statute, or other Law, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And, for the more speedy proceeding to Condemnation, or other Determination, of any Prize, Ship, or Vessel, Goods, or Merchandizes, already taken, or hereafter to be taken as aforesaid, and for lessening of the Expences that have been usual in the like Cases, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Judge or Judges of such Court of Admiralty, or other Person or Persons thereto authorized, shall, within the Space of Five Days after Request to him or them for that Purpose made, finish the usual preparatory Examination of the Persons commonly examined in such Cases, in order to prove the Capture to be lawful Prize, or to enquire whether the same be lawful Prize or not; and that the proper Monition usual in such Cases, shall be issued by the Person or Persons proper to issue the same, and shall be executed in the usual Manner by the Person or Persons proper to execute the same, within the Space of Three Days after Request in that Behalf made; and in case no Claim of such Capture, Ship, Vessel, or Goods, shall be duly entered or made in the usual Form, and attested upon Oath, giving Twenty Days Notice after the Execution of such Monition; or if there be such Claim, and the Claimant or Claimants shall not within Five Days give sufficient Security (to be approved of by such Court of Admiralty) to pay Double Costs to the Captor or Captors of such Ship, Vessel, or Goods, in case the same so claimed shall be adjudged lawful Prize; that then, the Judge or Judges of such Court of Admiralty shall,

Judge to finish the preparatory Examination, with Respect to the Captures, within 5 Days.

Monition to be issued and executed within 3 Days after.

If no Claim thereupon be made within a limited Time,

or Security given by the Claimant,

upon producing to him or them the said Examinations, or Copies thereof, and upon producing to him or them, upon Oath, all Papers and Writings which shall have been found, taken in or with such Capture; or upon Oath made that no such Papers or Writings were found; immediately, and without further Delay, proceed to Sentence, either to discharge and acquit such Capture, or to adjudge and condemn the same as lawful Prize, according as the Case shall appear to him or them, upon Perusal of such preparatory Examinations, and also of the other last-mentioned Papers and Writings found, taken in or with such Capture, if any such Papers or Writings shall be found; and in case such Claim shall be duly entered or made, and Security given thereupon, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act, and there shall appear no Occasion to examine any Witnesses, other than what shall be then near to such Court of Admiralty, that then, such Judge or Judges shall forthwith cause such Witnesses to be examined within the Space of Ten Days after such Claim made and Security given, and proceed to such Sentence, as aforesaid, touching such Capture; but in case upon making or entering such Claim, and the Allegation and Oath thereupon, or the producing such Papers or Writings as shall have been found or taken in or with such Capture; or upon the said preparatory Examinations, it shall appear doubtful to the Judge or Judges of such Court of Admiralty, whether such Capture be lawful Prize or not, and it shall appear necessary, according to the Circumstances of the Case, for the clearing and determining such Doubt, to have an Examination, upon Pleadings given in by the Parties, and admitted by the Judge, of Witnesses that are remote from such Court of Admiralty, and such Examination shall be desired, and that it be still insisted on, on Behalf of the Captors, that the said Capture is lawful Prize, and that the contrary be still persisted in on the Claimants Behalf, that then the said Judge or Judges shall forthwith cause such Capture to be appraised by Persons to be named by the Parties, and appointed by the Court, and sworn truly to appraise the same according to the best of their Skill and Knowledge; for which Purpose, the said Judge or Judges shall cause the Goods found on Board, to be unladen, and an Inventory thereof being first taken by the Marshal of the Admiralty, or his Deputy, shall cause them to be put into proper Warehouses, with separate Locks of the Collector and Comptroller of the Customs; and where there is no Comptroller, of the Naval Officer; and the Agents or Persons employed by the Captors and Claimants,

the Judge to proceed forthwith to Sentence.

If Claim be entered, and Security given, and Witnesses be near, Examination and Determination to be had and made within 10 Days.

If the Legality of the Capture shall appear doubtful, and the Parties persist in litigating their Right,

Judge to order the Capture to be appraised,

and the Goods to be unloaded and lodged in Warehouses, and an Inventory taken thereof;

Claimants, at the Charge of the Party or Parties desiring the same; and shall, after such Appraisement made, and within the Space of Fourteen Days after the making of such Claim, proceed to take good and sufficient Security from the Claimants, to pay the Captors the full Value thereof according to such Appraisement, in case the same shall be adjudged lawful Prize; and shall also proceed to take good and sufficient Security from the Captors, to pay such Costs as the Court shall think proper, in case such Ship shall not be condemned as lawful Prize; and after such Securities duly given, the said Judge or Judges shall make an interlocutory Order for releasing or delivering the same to such Claimant or Claimants, or his or their Agents, and the same shall be actually released or delivered accordingly.

and upon Security for full Value taken of the Claimant,

and for Costs, of the Captors,

to make Order for release of the Capture to Claimant.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Claimant or Claimants shall refuse to give such Security, the Judge or Judges shall cause the Captor or Captors in like Manner to give good and sufficient Security, to be approved of by the Claimant or Claimants, to pay the said Claimant or Claimants the full Value thereof, according to the Appraisement, in case any such Capture or Captures shall be adjudged not to be lawful Prize; and the said Judge or Judges shall thereupon proceed to make an interlocutory Order for the releasing and delivering the same to the said Captor or Captors, or their Agents.

Claimant refusing, and Captor giving such Security,

Judge to make Order for Delivery of Prize to Captor.

And it is further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Captures as aforesaid, which shall be brought into any of His Majesty's Colonies or Plantations in America, shall, without breaking Bulk, stay there, and be under the joint Care and Custody of the Collector and Comptroller of the Customs; or, where there is no Comptroller, of the Naval Officers of the Port or Place where the same shall be brought, and all the Captors thereof, and their Agents; subject to the Directions of the Court of Admiralty, until either the same shall, by final Sentence, have been either cleared and discharged, or adjudged and condemned as lawful Prize; or that such interlocutory Order as aforesaid, shall have been made for the releasing or delivering of the same; and upon the Condemnation or Adjudication thereof as lawful Prize, shall, in case the same were taken by any such private Ship or Ships, commissioned as aforesaid, be immediately delivered unto the Captors thereof, and their Agents, to be by them disposed of as their Goods and Chattles; and in case the same were taken by any of His Majesty's Ships of War, unto such Person or Persons, and to be so divided and

Captures made in *America*, to be under the joint Care of the Officers of the Customs and Captors, till condemned or acquitted there.

Upon Condemnation, Prize to be delivered to the Captors.

disposed of as His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, shall, by Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be issued for those Purposes, order and direct.

Judge, or other Officer, in *America*, guilty of Neglect or Delay in executing his Duty,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Judge or Judges, or other Officer or Officers, in any of His Majesty's Plantations or Dominions abroad, to whom respectively it shall appertain, shall delay the doing, performing, making, or pronouncing any of the several Proceedings, Matters, or Things, for, towards, or relating to condemning or discharging, releasing or delivering of any such Capture in Manner aforesaid, within the respective Times herein before limited, or as soon as the same, or any of them, ought to be done, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act, all and every such Judge and Judges, and other Officer and Officers, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Five hundred Pounds; One Moiety thereof to His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, the other Moiety thereof, with Full Costs of Suit, to such Person or Persons who shall inform, or sue for the same, in any of the Courts in or for any of His Majesty's said Colonies or Plantations, or in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record within His Kingdom of Great Britain.

forfeits 500 *l.*

with Full Costs of Suit,

Fees of Court on Condemnation of Prizes in *America*;

for Vessels under 100 Tons, 10 *l.*

for all above, 15 *l.*

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall not be paid unto or among all the Judges and Officers of such Court of Admiralty in any of His Majesty's Plantations or Dominions abroad, for, towards, or relating to the adjudging or condemning of such Capture as aforesaid, as lawful Prize, above the Sum of Ten Pounds, in case such Prize, Ship, or Vessel, be under the Burthen of One hundred Tons; nor above the Sum of Fifteen Pounds, in case the same be of that or any greater Burthen; and that upon Payment of either of the said respective Sums, as the Case shall require, to the said Judge or Judges, or any of them, to be by him or them disposed or divided, as he or they shall think fit, among the Officers of such Court, such Judges and Officers, and every of them, shall be liable to all and every the several Penalties hereby imposed, for neglecting or delaying to do and perform their several and respective Duties or Offices in and relating to the several Proceedings aforesaid, within the respective Times herein for that Purpose limited.

Upon Payment of the Fees, Judge, or Officer, liable to the above Penalties for Neglect or Delay of Duty.

Judgement of the Court may be appealed from.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Captor or Captors, Claimant or Claimants, shall not rest satisfied with the Sentence given in such Court of Admiralty in any of His Majesty's Plantations or Dominions abroad, it shall and may

may be lawful for the Party or Parties thereby aggrieved to appeal from the said Court of Admiralty, to the Commissioners appointed, or to be appointed, under the Great Seal of Great Britain, for receiving, hearing, and determining Appeals in Causes of Prizes; such Appeal to be allowed in the like Manner as Appeals to such Commissioners are now allowed from the Court of Admiralty within this Kingdom; so as the same be made within Fourteen Days after Sentence, and good Security be likewise given by the Appellant or Appellants, that he or they will effectually prosecute such Appeal, and answer the Condemnation, and also pay Treble Costs, as shall be awarded, in case the Sentence of such Court of Admiralty be affirmed; any thing in this Act before contained to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Appeal to be made within 14 Days after Sentence, and Security to be given to prosecute the same, &c.

Provided always, That the Execution of any Sentence so appealed from as aforesaid, shall not be suspended by reason of such Appeal, in case the Party or Parties appellate shall give sufficient Security, to be approved of by the Court in which such Sentence shall be given, to restore the Ship, Vessel, Goods, or Effects, concerning which such Sentence shall be pronounced, or the full Value thereof, to the Appellant or Appellants, in case the Sentence so appealed from shall be reversed.

Execution of Sentence not to be suspended thereupon, if the Appellate give Security for Vessel, &c. or Value, &c.

And be it enacted, That in case any Person, who was not a Party in the first Instance of the Cause, shall interpose an Appeal from a Sentence given in any Admiralty Court, such Person, or his or her Agent, shall, at the same Time, enter his or her Claim, otherwise such Appeal shall be null and void.

Person, who was not a Party in the first Instance, interposing an Appeal, is to enter his Claim at the same Time.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Commander or Commanders, Officer or Officers, Seamen, Mariners, Soldiers, or others, shall break Bulk on Board, or imbezil any of the Money, Jewels, Plate, Goods, Merchandize, Tackle, Furniture, or Apparel of or belonging to such Prize or Prizes so taken, such Commander, Officer, Seaman, Marine, Soldier, or others, shall forfeit Treble the Value of all such Money, Jewels, Plate, Goods, Merchandize, Tackle, Furniture, or Apparel, as he or they shall imbezil; One Third Part thereof to be to the Use of Greenwich Hospital, and the other Two Third Parts thereof to him or them that will sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain; in which no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed.

Captors breaking Bulk, or imbezling any of the Effects, to forfeit Treble Value.

One Third to *Greenwich Hospital*, and the other Two to the Prosecutor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Appraisements and Sales of any Ship or Ships,

Appraisements and Sales of Prizes, taken by the King's Ships, to be made by the Agents for the respective Officers and Crews concerned in the Capture.

Regulations concerning the Appointment and Number of Agents.

Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes, as shall be taken by any of His Majesty's Ships of War, shall be made by Agents or Persons nominated and appointed in equal Numbers by the Flag Officers or Flag Officer, Captains or Captain, Officers or Officer, Ships Companies or Ship's Company, and others, intitled thereunto (that is to say) That if the Flag Officers or Flag Officer of any Fleet or Squadron of Ships, as shall take any such Prize or Prizes (or the Majority of such Flag Officers, if more than One) shall nominate and appoint One or more Person or Persons Agent or Agents, to sell or appraise the same as aforesaid, then the Captains and Commanders, or Captain and Commander, intitled thereunto, or the Majority of them (if more than One) shall nominate and appoint the like Number of Persons or Agents to act for them; and all the other Officers, under the Degree of a Captain and Commander, entitled thereto, or the major Part of them, shall also nominate and appoint the like Number of Persons or Agents to act for them; and all the Crews of the several Ships Companies of the Fleet or Squadron, or Ship's Company, and others, entitled thereto, or the major Part of them, shall likewise nominate and appoint the same Number of Persons or Agents to act on their Behalf in such Appraisement or Sale.

The above Clause not to extend to Privateers.

Provided, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to alter, or make void any Agreement or Agreements made, or to be made, in Writing, between the Owners, Officers, and Seamen, of any private Ships or Vessels of War.

Agents to exhibit and register, within a limited Time, their Letters of Attorney, in the Court where the Prize shall be condemned, on Penalty of 500*l.*

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons who shall be so nominated and appointed Agent or Agents as aforesaid, for any Prize or Prizes taken by any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels of War, or by any Merchant Ship or Ships employed in his Majesty's Service, or having Letters of Marque, or for receiving the Bounty herein after granted, and which Prize or Prizes shall be condemned in the High Court of Admiralty in Great Britain, or in any of the Courts of Admiralty in any of His Majesty's Plantations in America, or in any other His Majesty's Dominions, or elsewhere, where the said Prize and Prizes, and every of them, shall be condemned, shall exhibit, and cause to be registered in the said High Court of Admiralty in Great Britain, or in the respective Courts of Admiralty in America, or in any other His Majesty's Dominions, or elsewhere, where the said Prize and Prizes, and every of them, shall be condemned, his or their respective Letter or Letters of Attorney, appointing him or them

Agent

Agent or Agents for the Purposes aforesaid; and if any Person or Persons, so appointed Agent or Agents as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect so to do for the Space of Six Calendar Months next after Sentence of Condemnation of any Prize shall be given in the said High Court of Admiralty in Great Britain, or in America, or other His Majesty's Dominions, for the Care and Distribution of which he or they shall be appointed Agent or Agents, such Person or Persons, so refusing or neglecting, shall forfeit the Sum of Five hundred Pounds, to be recovered by him or them who shall sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain, America, or in any other of His Majesty's Dominions, or elsewhere; in which no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed.

Agent appointed after Condemnation of Prize, to register his Letters of Attorney in like Manner, and on like Penalty.

Provided always, That if any Agent or Agents shall be appointed after the Time any Sentence of Condemnation in any of the said Courts of Admiralty shall be given, such Agent or Agents shall, under the aforesaid Penalty, register, or cause to be registered, in Manner aforesaid, his or their respective Letters or Letter of Attorney, appointing him or them Agent or Agents as aforesaid, within the Space of Six Calendar Months after the Date of the said Letter or Letters of Attorney.

Agents to give Notice of the Time appointed for Payment of the Shares to the Captors.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That after the Sale or Sales of such Prize or Prizes, as shall be taken from the Enemy by any of His Majesty's Ships of War, publick Notification shall be given by the Persons or Agents appointed as aforesaid, of the Day appointed for the Payment of the several Shares to the Captors aforesaid; after which publick Notification, if any Mens Shares shall remain in the Hands of the Persons or Agents appointed as aforesaid, either belonging to such Men as shall be run from His Majesty's Service, or which shall not be legally demanded within Three Years, then such Share or Shares so remaining in the Persons or Agents Hands, or belonging to such Men as shall run from His Majesty's Service, shall go and be paid to the Use of Greenwich Hospital.

Shares of Run Men, and of such as shall not be demanded within 3 Years, to be paid to *Greenwich Hospital*.

Prize Goods not exempted from Payment of Customs and Duties.

Provided always, and be it declared and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend to exempt any Ships, Goods, Wares, or Merchandize already taken, and which shall be taken as Prize, and brought or imported into this Kingdom, or any of His Majesty's Plantations in America, from the Payment of any Customs or Duties, or from being subject to such Restrictions and Regulations to which the same now are or shall hereafter be

liable

liable by virtue of the Laws and Statutes of this Realm.

Prize Ships condemned to be considered as *British* built Ships, and subject to like Regulations.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Prize Ships or Vessels which shall be legally condemned, shall, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, be considered as British built Ships or Vessels, and be deemed and taken as such, and shall be entitled to have and enjoy all and every the same Rights, Liberties, Privileges, and Advantages, in all Respects whatsoever with British built Ships or Vessels, and shall be subject and liable to all and every the Rules and Regulations that British built Ships or Vessels are subject and liable to; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Clause in Act 12 *Car.* II.

And whereas by a Clause in an Act of Parliament passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, An Act for the encouraging and increasing of Shipping and Navigation, it is enacted, That no Goods or Commodities of the Growth, Production, or Manufacture of Muscovy, or of any the Countries, Dominions, or Territories to the Great Duke or Emperor of Muscovy or Russia belonging; as also, that no Sorts of Masts, Timber, or Boards, no Foreign Salt, Pitch, Tar, Rosin, Hemp or Flax, Raisins, Figs, Prunes, Olive Oils, no Sort of Corn or Grain, Sugar, Pot Ashes, Wines, Vinegar, or Spirits called Aqua Vitæ, or Brandy Wine, should, from and after the First Day of April, which was in the Year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and sixty one, be imported into England, Ireland, Wales, or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, in any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels whatsoever, but in such as do truly, and without Fraud, belong to the People thereof, or some of them, as the true Owners and Proprietors thereof, and whereof the Master, and Three Fourths of the Mariners at least, are English; and that no Currants, nor Commodities of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of any of the Countries, Islands, Dominions, or Territories to the Othoman or Turkish Empire belonging, should, from and after the First Day of September, which was in the Year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and sixty one, be imported into any of the forementioned Places in any Ship or Vessel but which is of English Built, and navigated as aforesaid, and in no other, except only such Foreign Ships and Vessels as are of the Built of that Country or Place, of which the said Goods are the Growth, Production, or Manufacture respectively, or of such Port where the said Goods can only be, or most usually are first shipped for Transportation,

tion, and whereof the Master, and Three Fourths of the Mariners at least, are of the said Country or Place, under the Penalty and Forfeiture of Ship and Goods: And whereas the selling of British built Ships to Foreigners is a beneficial Branch of Trade, and ought therefore to be encouraged, and it is highly reasonable that British Ships so sold to, or being the Property of Foreigners, should enjoy the same Privilege in these Kingdoms, as if they were of the Built of the respective Countries or Places from whence such Ships do come; Now, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said Seventeenth Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, and during the present War with France, and no longer, the said recited Clause in the said Act of the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to hinder or prevent any Person or Persons whatsoever from importing into the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland, any of the Goods or Merchandizes mentioned and expressed in the aforesaid Clause, in Shipping built in Great Britain, Ireland, the Islands of Guernsey or Jersey, or in any of the Lands, Islands, Dominions, and Territories, to His Majesty in Africa, Asia, or America belonging, or in his Possession, so as the Master, and Three Fourths of the Mariners at least, belonging to and navigating any such Ship or Vessel, are British, or of the same Country or Place of which the said Goods are the Growth, Production, and Manufactures respectively, and not otherwise.

The recited Clause not to prohibit the Importation in *British* built Vessels, of the Goods or Merchandizes mentioned therein, so as such Ships are navigated as herein directed.

Provided always, That all Goods and Merchandizes imported into Great Britain or Ireland, in Ships belonging to, and the Property of Foreigners, although British built, shall pay Aliens, and all other Duties, in the same Manner, as if such Ships were Foreign built.

Goods imported in *British* built Ships, being the Property of Foreigners, to pay Aliens Duty.

And, as a further Encouragement to the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, and others, on Board His Majesty's Ships of War, as also of Privateers, to attack, take, and destroy, any Ships of Force belonging to the Enemy; be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall be paid by the Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy, upon Bills to be made forth by the Commissioners of the Navy, to be paid according to the Course thereof, without Fee or Reward, unto the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, or others, that shall have been actually on Board any of His Majesty's Ship or Ships of War, or Privateer or Privateers, in any Action where any Ship or Ships of War, or Privateers shall have been taken from the Enemy, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed,

Bounty Money payable to the Captors by the Navy Office, for all Men on Board the Enemies Ships taken or destroyed.

destroyed, since his Majesty's Declaration of War against France, dated the said Seventeenth Day of May, One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, Five Pounds for every Man which was living on Board any Ship or Ships so taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, at the Beginning of the Engagement between them; the Numbers of such Men to be proved by the Oaths of Three or more of the Chief Officers, or Men, which were belonging to the said Ship or Ships of War, or Privateers of the Enemy, or belonging to any of them, at the Time of her or their being taken as Prize, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, before the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of the Port within any of his Majesty's Dominions, whereunto any Prize, or Officers, or Men of such Ships, as were sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, shall be brought, or before the British Consul, or Vice Consul, residing at any Neutral Port to which such Prize, or Officers, or Men, shall be brought; which Oaths the said Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of any such Port, or Consul, or Vice Consul, are hereby respectively impowered and required to administer, and shall forthwith grant a Certificate thereof, without Fee or Reward, directed to the Commissioners of the Navy; upon producing which Certificate to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, together with an authentick Copy of the Condemnation of such Ship so taken; or if such Ship be sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, on producing only a Certificate from the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, or Consul, or Vice Consul, as aforesaid, the said Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, or such Person or Persons as they shall appoint for that Purpose, shall, according to the Course of the Navy, within Fifteen Days, make out Bills for the Amount of such Bounty, directed to the Treasurer of the Navy, payable to, and to be divided amongst the Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers, on Board his Majesty's Ships of War, in Manner, Form, and Proportion, as by his Majesty's Proclamation to be issued for that Purpose shall be directed and appointed; and amongst the Owners, Officers, and Seamen, of any private Vessel, or Ship of War, in such Manner and Proportion, as by any Agreement in Writing they shall have entered into for that Purpose, shall be directed.

Numbers to be ascertained upon Oath;

and a Certificate to be granted thereof, and produced to the Commissioners of the Navy, with Copy of Ship's Condemnation; unless the Ship be sunk or destroyed.

Dividend to be made according to Proportion settled by Proclamation.

Provided nevertheless, That in all Cases where such Oath and Certificate cannot be administered and granted at the First Port whereunto any Prize, or Officers or Men of such Ships as shall be taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, shall be brought, such Oath or Oaths

Where such Oath and Certificate cannot be made and had at the First Port,

relating to any Prize or Prizes that shall be taken, or to any Ships of His Majesty's Enemies, that shall be sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, as aforesaid, shall and may be administered and taken by and before the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate of any Port within any of His Majesty's Dominions, or by or before the British Consul, or Vice Consul, residing at any Neutral Port whereunto any Prize or Prizes, or Officers or Men of any Ships belonging to His Majesty's Enemies, as shall be taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed, shall at any Time afterwards be brought (Proof being first made by Affidavit before such Person or Persons of the Inability of making such Oath or Oaths, and obtaining such Certificate, at the said First Port) and the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, Consul, or Vice Consul, shall thereupon grant such Certificate and Certificates as are herein before directed; which Certificate and Certificates shall be good and effectual to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same were granted by the Mayor, or other Chief Magistrate, Consul, or Vice Consul of the Port to which such Prize or Prizes, Officers or Men, as aforesaid, shall be First brought; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

the same may be made and had at any other Port;

Oath being made of such Inability at the first Port.

Certificate granted thereupon to be valid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Bill or Bills to be made out for the Bounty hereby granted to the Commanders, Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, and others, of His Majesty's Ships of War, for taking, sinking, burning, or otherwise destroying, any Ships of War, or Privateers, belonging to any of His Majesty's Enemies, shall be made payable to such Person or Persons as shall be authorized and appointed by the Flag Officers or Flag Officer, Captains or Captain, Officers or Officer, Ships Companies, or Ship's Company, and others, intitled thereunto, in like Manner as herein before is directed for the nominating and appointing Agents for Appraisements and Sales to be made as aforesaid; the same to be distributed and divided by the said Person or Persons so authorized and appointed amongst the Captors, in such Manner, Form, and Proportion, as aforesaid; the several Shares of which Captors, if not legally demanded within Three Years after publick Notification, and also of such as shall run from His Majesty's Service, shall be applied to the Use of Greenwich Hospital; and that the Bill or Bills to be made out for the Bounty hereby granted to Privateers for taking, burning, sinking, or otherwise destroying, any Ships of War, or Privateers, belonging to any of His Majesty's Enemies, shall be made payable to such Person or Persons as shall be

Bills for Bounty Money to be paid to Agents,

and to be divided amongst the Captors.

Shares not demanded within 3 Years, to be paid over to *Greenwich Hospital*.

Bounty Money to Privateers, to be divided as agreed among themselves.

be nominated and appointed by the Owner or Owners, Officers and Seamen, of such Privateer or Privateers, who shall have taken, sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed the same, or the major Part of them; to be divided in such Manner and Proportions, as shall have been agreed on by them as aforesaid.

Ships or Goods belonging to His Majesty's Subjects taken as Prize by the Enemy, and retaken by the King's Ships, or Privateers,

Provided always, and be it enacted, That if any Ship, Vessel, or Boat, taken as Prize, or any Goods therein, shall appear, and be proved in the Court of Admiralty, to have belonged to any of His Majesty's Subjects of Great Britain or Ireland, or any of the Dominions and Territories remaining and continuing under His Majesty's Protection and Obedience, which were before taken or surprized by any of His Majesty's Enemies, and at any Time afterwards again surprized and retaken from His Majesty's Enemies by any of His Majesty's Ships of War, or any private Man of War, or other Ship, Vessel, or Boat, under His Majesty's Protection and Obedience, that then such Ships, Vessels, Boats, and Goods, and every such Part and Parts thereof, as aforesaid, formerly belonging to such His Majesty's Subjects, shall, in all Cases, be

to be restored, on paying a Salvage in Proportion to the Time they were in the Enemy's Hand.

adjudged to be restored, and shall be by Decree of the said Court of Admiralty accordingly restored to such former Owner or Owners, or Proprietors, he or they paying for and in lieu of Salvage, if retaken from the Enemy by One of His Majesty's Ships of War, One Eighth Part of the true Value of the Ships, Vessels, Boats and Goods respectively, so to be restored; which Salvage shall be answered and paid to the Captains, Officers, and Seamen, in the said Man of War, to be divided in such Manner as before in this Act is directed touching the Share of Prizes belonging to the Flag Officers, Captains, Officers, Seamen, Marines, and Soldiers, where Prizes are taken by any of His Majesty's Ships of War; and if taken by a Privateer, or other Ship, Vessel, or Boat, before it has been in the Possession of the Enemy Twenty four Hours, One Eighth Part of the true Value of the said Ships, Vessels, Boats, and Goods; and if it has been in the Possession of the Enemy above Twenty four Hours, and under Forty eight Hours, a Fifth Part thereof; and if above Forty eight Hours, and under Ninety six Hours, a Third Part thereof; and if above Ninety six Hours, a Moiety thereof; all which Payments to be made to any Privateer, or other Ship, Vessel, or Boat, shall be without any Deductions; and if such Ship so retaken by any of His Majesty's Ships of War, or by any private Man of War, shall appear to have been, after the taking by the Enemy, by them set forth as a

Payment of Salvage to be without Deduction.

If the Ship retaken was fitted out by the Enemy as a Man of War,

Man of War, the former Owners and Proprietors to whom the same shall be restored, shall be adjudged to pay, and shall pay for Salvage, the full Moiety of the true Value of the said Ship so taken and restored, without Deduction as aforesaid; any Law, Custom, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding. Owner to pay for Salvage the Moiety of the Value.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Ship or Vessel, or any Goods or Merchandize, shall be taken by any Privateer through Consent, or clandestinely, or by Collusion or Connivance, such Ship and Vessel, and such Goods and Merchandizes, and also the Ship's Tackle, Furniture, Apparel, and Ammunition, of such Privateer, shall, upon Proof thereof to be made in his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, or in the Court of Admiralty, be declared and adjudged to be good Prize to his Majesty; and One Moiety thereof shall be to the Use of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and the other Moiety to the Use of such Person who shall discover and sue for the same; and the Bond given by the Captain of such Privateer shall be, and is hereby adjudged to be forfeited to His Majesty; and in case any such Ship or Vessel, or any Goods or Merchandizes, as aforesaid, shall be taken by any Man of War, through Consent, clandestinely, or by Collusion or Connivance of the Commander or Captain, such Commander or Captain shall forfeit the Sum of One thousand Pounds; One Moiety thereof to the Use of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and the other Moiety to the Use of such Person who shall discover and sue for the same; to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record; wherein no Essoin, Protection, Privilege, or Wager of Law, or any more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed; and such Captain, or Officer, shall forfeit his Command and Employment, and shall be, and is hereby disabled and made incapable of any Office or Employment under His Majesty, during the Space of Seven Years; and the said Goods and Merchandizes, and the Ship, Tackle, Apparel, Furniture, Guns, and Ammunition, so taken by Collusion, shall be, and is hereby adjudged to be, good Prize to His Majesty. Ships or Merchandize taken by Collusion by Privateers, forfeited to His Majesty, with the Bond; One Moiety to the Crown, the other to the Prosecutor, and if so taken by a King's Ship, the Captain to forfeit 1000 l. and be suspended for 7 Years, and the Ship and Goods forfeited.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons belonging to any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War, or to any Merchant Ship employed in His Majesty's Service, who shall run away, or withdraw him or themselves from the Ship or Vessel, by which any Prize or Prizes shall be taken from any of His Majesty's Enemies, or otherwise from His Majesty's Service, before or after Notification shall be Run Men forfeit their Share of Prize and Bounty Money;

given by the Persons or Agents appointed as aforesaid, of the Day appointed for the Payment of the several Shares to the Captors of the said Prize or Prizes, shall have, or be intitled to have, or claim any Interest in, or Benefit of the said Share or Shares, of the said Prize or Prizes, or the Bounty Money aforesaid, or any Part thereof; but such Share and Shares of such Prize and Prizes, and Bounty Money, shall go and be paid to the Use of Greenwich Hospital.

which is to be paid over to *Greenwich Hospital*;

Provided always, That if any Person or Persons shall, or do run away, or withdraw him or themselves, from any such Ship or Vessel, as aforesaid, after Notification given as aforesaid, he or they shall forfeit and lose such Part of his and their Share and Shares of the said Prize or Prizes, and Bounty Money, as shall be remaining in the said Agent or Agents Hands, at the Time of his and their running away, or withdrawing him or themselves; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

and if they Run, after Notification, to lose what then remains of their Share in the Agents Hands.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person and Persons, Agent and Agents, and others who shall sell, or otherwise dispose of any Prize or Prizes, so to be taken as aforesaid, from any of His Majesty's Enemies, shall, within the Space of Three Calendar Months next after the Day to be appointed for the First Payment or Distribution to the Captors of such Prize or Prizes made in pursuance of such publick Notification as aforesaid, make out and transmit, or deliver unto the Treasurer of the said Royal Hospital at Greenwich for the time being, or to such Person or Persons, as he shall for that Purpose depute or appoint, a true State and Account in Writing, under the Hand or Hands of such Agent or Agents, or Person or Persons so employed, of the Produce of all such Prize and Prizes as aforesaid, together with an Account of the Payments of the several Shares to the Captors, as shall then have been really and bona fide by him or them respectively paid; and also that all and every Person and Persons authorized and appointed by this present Act, to receive Bills for the Bounty hereby granted, shall, within the like Space of Three Calendar Months, next after the Day appointed for the First Payment or Distribution of such Bills, for the Bounty as aforesaid, in like Manner make out and transmit, or deliver to the Treasurer for the time being of the said Hospital, or to his sufficient Deputy, a true State and Account in Writing, under his or their Hand or Hands, of the Payment and Distribution of such Bills; and further that all and every Person and Persons,

Agents, within 3 Months after the Day appointed for First Payment, to transmit to the Treasurer of *Greenwich Hospital*, an Account of the Produce of such Prize;

and Payment of Shares;

and also transmit a like Account of the Bounty Money;

sons, Agents and others, that by virtue of this Act shall sell or dispose of any Prize or Prizes, which shall at any Time or Times hereafter be taken from the said Enemy, by any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War, or that shall receive or dispose of any Bill or Bills for Bounty, such Person and Persons, Agents and others, so selling and disposing thereof, shall, within the Space of Three Calendar Months next after the Expiration of the Term of Three Years, limited by this Act, make out an exact Account in Writing of the Produce of such Prize and Prizes, Bill and Bills, for Bounty; as also of the Payments of the several Shares to the respective Captors, together with a true and just Account upon Oath, to be taken before the Treasurer of the said Hospital for the time being, or any other Person or Persons, by him for that Purpose deputed and authorized, in Writing under his Hand and Seal (which Oath the said Treasurer of the said Hospital, and his sufficient Deputy and Deputies, authorized as aforesaid, is and are hereby authorized and impowered to administer) of all Sum and Sums of Money as shall be then remaining in such Agent or Agents, or Persons, Custody, Power, or Possession, and shall at the same Time deliver, or cause to be delivered to the Treasurer of the said Hospital for the time being, or to his sufficient Deputy or Agent, the said Accounts so attested upon Oath as aforesaid, together with all such remaining Sum and Sums of Money then so left, and remaining in his or their Hands as aforesaid, taking from the said Treasurer, or his proper Deputy or Agent, his or their Acquittance or Acquittances, for the same.

and within 3 Years after, to make out on Oath, and transmit a like Account of the Produce and Payments of such Prizes and Bounty Money,

and of all Sums then remaining in their Hands,

which are to be paid over at the same Time to the Treasurer of the said Hospital.

And be it further enacted, That all and every the Person and Persons hereby directed to transmit or deliver all or any the Accounts before-mentioned, who shall neglect or refuse to transmit or deliver all or any such Account or Accounts to the Treasurer of the said Hospital, or his said Deputy or Agent, within the Time before limited and appointed, in Manner and Form as is herein before mentioned, or who shall neglect or refuse to pay over all and every such Sum and Sums of Money, as shall remain in his or their Hand or Hands, Power, Custody, or Possession, after the Term of Three Years, to be accounted as aforesaid, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds, over and above the Money then in such Agents Hands; One Third Part whereof shall belong to His Majesty, and the remaining Two Thirds to the said Royal Hospital, to be recovered with Costs of Suit, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint,

Agents neglecting to render such Accounts and Payments, to forfeit 100*l.* over and above the Money then in their Hands;

One Third to the King, and the rest to the Hospital,

or Information, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record, in which no Essoin, Protection, Privilege, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance shall be allowed.

If there appear any Fraud or Collusion in such Accounts, Persons concerned therein to forfeit 100*l. extra.*

And be it further enacted, That if any Fraud, Collusion, or Deceit, shall be wittingly or willingly made, used, committed, permitted, or done, or suffered, in making, stating, or ballancing, any such Accounts, then every Person or Persons, who shall be thereof duly convicted, and his and their Aiders and Abettors, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence, over and above the Penalties and Punishments inflicted by this Act, the Sum of One hundred Pounds, One Third Part whereof to be to the Use of His Majesty, and One other Third to the Use of the said Hospital, and the other Third to the Informer who shall sue for the same, to be recovered with Costs of Suit, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record, in which no Essoin, Protection, Privilege, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance shall be allowed.

One Third to the King, One to the Hospital, and One to the Prosecutor.

And whereas good and necessary Laws have been made and are still in Force within several of his Majesty's Colonies or Plantations in America, for preventing the carrying off from the said Colonies or Plantations any Servant or Slave without the Consent of the Owner, or the carrying off from thence any other Person or Persons whatsoever, until such Person shall have taken out his Ticket from the Secretary's Office, within such respective Colony or Plantation, in such Manner and under such Penalties and Forfeitures, as in and by the said several Laws is declared and provided; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Commanders of private Ships of War, or Merchant Ships, having Letters of Marque, shall upon their going into any of those Ports or Harbours be subject, and they are hereby determined to be subject to the several Directions, Provisions, Penalties, and Forfeitures in and by such Laws made and provided; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Privateers subject to the Laws and Regulations established in *British* Colonies in going into the Ports there.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to restrain His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, from giving such further Rules and Directions to his respective Courts of Admiralty for the Adjudication and Condemnation of Prizes, as by His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, with the Advice of His or Their Privy Council, shall be thought necessary or proper.

His Majesty impowered to give such further Rules and Directions to the Courts of Admiralty, as He shall judge proper.

And whereas in all private Ships of War or Merchant Ships that shall take out Letters of Marque, it is expedient for the better Discipline and Government of such Ships, that all Persons who shall enter themselves on Board the said Ships should be under proper Regulations to pay Obedience to the lawful Commands of the Captains and Chief Commanders of the said Ships; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Offences committed by any Officer or Seaman on Board any Privateer or Merchant Ship taking Letter of Marque during the present War with France, shall be punished in such Manner as the like Offences are punishable on Board His Majesty's Ships of War.

Offences committed on Board Privateers, punishable in like Manner as in the King's Ships.

Provided always, That all Offenders who shall be accused of such Crimes as are cognizable only by a Court-martial, shall be confined on Board such Privateer or Merchant Ship carrying Letter of Marque on which such Offence shall be committed, until they shall arrive in some Port in Great Britain or Ireland, or can meet with such a Number of His Majesty's Ships of War Abroad, as are sufficient to make a Court-martial; and upon Application made by the Commander of such Privateer or Merchant Ship carrying Letter of Marque, to the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's said Ships of War Abroad, the said Lord High Admiral, or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, for the time being, or any Three or more of them, or such Commander in Chief Abroad, are hereby authorized and required to call a Court-martial for trying and punishing the said Offences.

Crimes cognizable only by a Court-martial, to be tried by a Court-martial.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Register or Registers of all and every the Court and Courts of Admiralty in any of His Majesty's Plantations in America, or elsewhere, in any other of His Majesty's Dominions, shall yearly and every Year upon the Twenty third Day of October, or within Three Calendar Months next after the same, make out and transcribe true Copies of all and every such Letter and Letters of Attorney as shall be so registered in the said Court or Courts, to which the Judge and Judges of the said Court and Courts shall affix his and their Seal of Office, and then the said Register and Registers shall transmit the same to the Treasurer of the said Royal Hospital at Greenwich, to be there registered, and to be inspected by any Person gratis; the Charges of which Copies, and affixing the Seal or Seals thereto, and transmitting the same

Registers, on Penalty of 500 *l.* to transmit yearly to the Treasurer of *Greenwich Hospital*, Copies of all Letters of Attorney registered in their Courts.

Judge to affix his Seal of Office thereto.

Agents to pay the Expences thereof.

same to the Treasurer of the said Hospital, shall be paid by the said Agent or Agents at the Time of making such Registry as aforesaid; and in case such Register or Registers shall neglect or refuse to transcribe and transmit such Copy and Copies of the said Letter and Letters of Attorney in Manner aforesaid (any Ship or Ships in that Time sailing from such Port or Place to any Port or Ports in Great Britain) such Register and Registers so neglecting or refusing, shall forfeit the Sum of Five hundred Pounds, to be recovered by him or them who will sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain or America, or in any other of His Majesty's Dominions, or elsewhere; in which no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance shall be allowed.

The said Copies to be deemed Evidence of the Agency of such Persons.

And, for the more effectual making such Letters of Attorney Evidence of the Agency of the Person or Persons to whom the same shall be made; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That true Copies of such Letter and Letters of Attorney, and of Transcripts, under Seal, transmitted by the said Register or Registers of the Court and Courts of Admiralty in His Majesty's Plantations in America, and elsewhere within His Majesty's Dominions, and registered by the said Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, shall, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, be good and sufficient Evidence of the Agency of the Person or Persons to whom such Letter of Attorney is or shall be made; and, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, shall be admitted without further or other Proof thereof, to be legal Evidence, in all His Majesty's Courts of Record of Law or Equity; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Agents not liable to be sued by Run Men in the King's Service, 'till after the Expiration of 3 Years;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Agent or Agents for Prizes or Bounty Money shall be liable to be sued, impleaded, or arrested by any Person or Persons who shall be made Run from His Majesty's Service, in the Lists to be duly certified of the Names of the Officers, Seamen, Marines, Soldiers, or others, who shall be actually on Board any of His Majesty's Ships of War at the taking of any Prize or Prizes, until the End of Three Months next after the Expiration of Three Years limited by this Act, for the claiming of Prizes and Bounty Money, unless the Person or Persons so made Run, shall before any Action brought obtain a Certificate of his or their R or R's, being taken off, and the Forfeiture of his or their Shares of such Prizes and Bounty Monies, being discharged by the Commissioners

unless the R's be sooner taken off, and a Certificate be produced for that Purpose,

of His Majesty's Navy who subscribed the said Lists, and shall produce such Certificate to the said Agent or Agents respectively; and unless the said Agent or Agents on the producing of such Certificate or Certificates shall refuse to pay the said Prize or Bounty Money (in case the same be due and payable according to the Directions in His Majesty's Declaration) within Two Months after any such Demand made and such Certificate produced.

and the Agent thereupon refuse to pay the Prize or Bounty Money.

And whereas great Numbers of Ships of Neutral Nations may pass the Seas laden with Naval Stores, intended to be carried to the Ports of France, whereby His Majesty's Enemies may not only be enabled and encouraged to fit out and arm Privateers to destroy the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects, but may also be supplied with Materials to build and fit out Ships of War to annoy and invade His Majesty's Dominions: And whereas divers Ships of Neutral Nations laden as aforesaid, may be taken and brought into the Ports of Great Britain, and the Purchase of such Naval Stores laden on Board such Ships of Neutral Nations for the Service of His Majesty, may in many Cases be expedient without proceeding to the Condemnation thereof; be it therefore further enacted by Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, for the time being, or their Officers or Agents, during the Continuance of the present War with France, to purchase on the Account or for the Service of His Majesty's Heirs and Successors only, all or any such Naval Stores as shall or may hereafter be brought into any of the Ports of this Kingdom by any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels on Board any such Ships of Neutral Nations; and that the Commissioners and Officers of the Customs for the time being shall and may permit and suffer such Naval Stores so purchased as aforesaid, to be entered and landed within any of the Ports of this Kingdom; any thing in an Act of Parliament passed in the Twelfth Year of His late Majesty King Charles the Second (intituled, An Act for encouraging and increasing of Shipping and Navigation) contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Commissioners of the Navy may purchase, for the King's Use, Naval Stores on Board Neutral Ships brought into Port by the King's Ships,

Act 12 *Car.* II. notwithstanding.

FINIS.