

ANNO SEXTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

CAP. XLIX.

An Act for encouraging the Capture or Destruction of piratical Ships and Vessels. [22d *June* 1825.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to give Encouragement to the Commanders, Officers, and Crews of His Majesty's Ships of War and hired armed Ships to attack and destroy any Ships, Vessels, or Boats, manned by Pirates or Persons engaged in Acts of Piracy: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act 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, and others, who shall have been actually on board any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War, or hired armed Ships, at the actual taking, sinking, burning, or otherwise destroying of any Ship, Vessel, or Boat, manned by Pirates or Persons engaged in Acts of Piracy, since the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and twenty, the Sum of Twenty Pounds for each and every such piratical Person, either taken and secured or killed during the Attack on such piratical Vessel, and the Sum of Five Pounds for each and every other Man of the Crew not taken or killed, who shall have been alive on board such Pirate Vessel at the beginning of the Attack thereof; the Numbers

There shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Navy, on Bills made forth by Commissioners, 20*l.* for every piratical Person secured or killed during the Attack on any piratical Vessel, and 5*l.* for every Man not taken or killed.

bers of such piratical Men respectively to be proved by the Ships Papers taken on board such piratical Ship, Vessel, or Boat, verified by the Oaths of Two or more of the Persons who shall have found and taken Possession of such Papers, or by such other Evidence as under the Circumstances of the Case shall, by the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, or by the Judge of any other Court authorized to take Cognizance of such Matter, be deemed sufficient Proof thereof.

As soon as the Amount of the Bounty shall be ascertained, Bills shall be drawn on the Commissioners of the Navy in manner herein mentioned.

II. And for the more speedy Distribution of such Reward payable in respect of Pirates or Pirate Vessels, taken or destroyed in distant Parts; be it further enacted, That when and so soon as the Amount of the Bounty so to be paid, and the Numbers of Men in respect of whom it shall be payable, shall have been ascertained in manner aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioner of the Navy resident at any of His Majesty's Dock Yards abroad, or in the Absence of a Commissioner of the Navy, for the Naval Officer and Storekeeper, or if there shall be no such Commissioner or Naval Officer, then for the Commander in Chief or Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at the Port or Place into which the piratical Ship, Vessel, or Boat shall be taken to be proceeded against, or in case of the Destruction of the Vessel, the Place into which the piratical Persons seized shall be carried, to draw upon the Commissioners of the Navy a Bill or Bills at Thirty Days Sight for the Amount of such Bounty, which Bill or Bills shall, upon the said Commissioners being satisfied of the Correctness and Amount thereof by the Production to them of the Proof herein-before required, be by them assigned for Payment on the Treasurer of the Navy, and when paid be charged as an Imprest on the Person so drawing the same; and that all Bills so to be made out by the Commissioners of the Navy, or to be drawn upon them as aforesaid, shall be made payable to such Person or Persons as shall be authorized and appointed Agents for the Appraisement and Sales of such piratical Ships or Boats in respect of which such Bounty shall be payable, or for the Receipt of such Bounty only, in case such piratical Ships, Vessels, or Boats shall have been sunk, burnt, or destroyed, in like manner as by an Act made in the Forty-fifth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen, and for the better and more effectually manning His Majesty's Navy during the present War*, was directed with respect to the Appointment of Agents for the Appraisement and Sale of Prizes taken from the Enemy; and that the same Bounty shall be paid, distributed, and divided by such authorized and appointed Agent or Agents, to and amongst such Persons, and in such Manner, Form, and Proportion as His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, by any Order or Orders in Council for that Purpose, shall think fit to declare and direct.

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Vessels, &c. found in Possession of Pirates to be restored to the Owners, on paying in

III. And be it further enacted, That if any Ship, Vessel, Boat, Goods, Merchandize, or other Property found and taken in the Possession of Pirates, shall be duly proved in and adjudged by Court of Admiralty or other Court having competent Jurisdiction therein to have belonged to and to have been taken from any of His Majesty's Subjects, then such Ship, Vessel, Boat, Goods, Merchandize, and

other Property, and every Part thereof so proved, shall by the Decree of the said Court be adjudged to be restored, and shall be accordingly restored to the former Owner or Owners, Proprietor or Proprietors thereof respectively, he or they paying for or in lieu of Salvage a Sum of Money equal to One-eighth Part of the true Value of such Ship, Vessel, Boat, Goods, Merchandize, and other Property respectively; which Money shall be paid to and divided and distributed amongst such Persons, and in such Manner, Form, and Proportion, as shall by any Proclamation or Order of His Majesty in Council be directed for the Distribution of the Produce of any Ship, Vessel, Boat, Goods, or other Property of Pirates.

lieu of Salvage One-eighth of the Value.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Person or Persons who shall desert from any of His Majesty's Ships or hired armed Vessels, or otherwise from His Majesty's Service, shall be entitled to receive any Proportion of Bounty Money, Salvage, or other Monies payable by virtue of this Act; but that the Shares of all such Persons, as well as all other Shares which shall not be legally demanded within the Times prescribed by the said Act of the Forty-fifth Year of His late Majesty's Reign for the Demand of Prize Money, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*, within such Times, in such Manner, and to and for such Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Provisions, Regulations, and Exceptions, as in the said Act is mentioned with respect to Prize Money.

No Person deserting from His Majesty's Service to be entitled to receive any Proportion of Bounty, &c.

V. And be it further enacted, That all and every Person and Persons who shall be so nominated and appointed Agent or Agents as aforesaid, for the Appraisement and Sale of any piratical Ships, Vessels, or Boats taken by any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels, or hired armed Ships, or for the Distribution of the Bounty Money by this Act given, shall exhibit and cause to be registered their Letter or Letters of Attorney in the respective Courts wherein the Proceedings touching the Vessels so taken, or touching such Bounty or Salvage, shall be had; and all such Agents shall be subject to such Forfeitures and Disqualifications for not registering the same as in and by the said Act of the Forty-fifth of His late Majesty's Reign are enacted and provided.

Agents appointed for Sale of Ships, &c. to register their Letters of Attorney.

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