

1784. — Chapter 19.

[May Session, ch. 19.]

AN ACT FOR THE REGULATION OF SEAMEN.

Chap. 19

Preamble.

Whereas great loss and damage is frequently occasioned to trade and navigation, by seamen deserting their employ or voyage they are entered upon, or being taken off from the same, by arrest for debt or pretence thereof: For remedy whereof,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That if any innkeeper, victualler, seller of wine or strong liquors, shopkeeper or any other person whatsoever, shall trust or give credit to any mariner or seaman, belonging to any ship or other vessel, without the knowledge and allowance of the master or commander thereof, no attachment or any other process for any debt so contracted without knowledge and allowance as aforesaid, shall be granted against, or served upon the person of such mariner or seaman, until he shall have performed the voyage he is then entered upon, and be discharged of the same; and every process issued contrary hereunto and the serving thereof, shall be deemed and adjudged utterly void in law. And any Justice of the Peace within the same county before whom it shall be made to appear that any mariner or seaman is committed or restrained upon process granted for any debt or pretence of debt made whilst he was engaged and actually entered and in pay on any voyage, shall forthwith order his release.

No attachment or other process for debt, to be served upon any seaman, when engaged in a voyage.

Be it further enacted, That if the master or commander of any ship or other vessel, shall ship any seaman, knowing him to be first entertained and shipped on board another ship or vessel, or after notice thereof given him shall not forthwith dismiss him, every such master or commander so offending, being thereof convicted, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds, to the use of him or them who shall sue for the same, in any Court of Record proper to try the same; and such seaman so shipping himself, being under the obligation of a former contract, shall forfeit and pay the value of one month's wages that he shall so agree for, to be recovered, employed and disposed of in manner as aforesaid.

Penalty for shipping seamen, knowing them to belong to other vessels.

Seamen neglecting their attendance and duty, when engaged.

Be it further enacted, That if any mariner or seaman having shipped himself on board any ship or other vessel which hath been launched, or is actually preparing for sea, to proceed in any voyage, and under pay, (the same being made to appear by his hand set to the master's book, shipping paper or other writing of such agreement) shall neglect his attendance and duty on board, and absent himself from his said service, upon complaint thereof made on oath by the owner, master, or other officer of the said ship or vessel, to any Justice of the Peace within the same county, such Justice is hereby empowered to cause such mariner or seaman to be forthwith brought before him by warrant, and upon conviction of his absenting himself as aforesaid, to commit him to prison that he may be secured, and forthcoming to proceed on the voyage he has so agreed to, and to be delivered by order of the Justice that committed him, or some other Justice in the same county.

July 5, 1784.

Penalty.

1784. — Chapter 20.

[May Session, ch. 20.]

Chap. 20 AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION IN THE DISTRICT OF *ORANGE*, IN THE COUNTY OF *HAMPSHIRE*, WHEREOF THE REVEREND MR. *EMERSON FOSTER* IS THE PRESENT MINISTER, INTO A SOCIETY, BY THE NAME OF THE CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN *ORANGE*.

Preamble.

Whereas the Church and Congregation aforesaid have applied to this Court, setting forth in their petition, that by subscriptions they are now possessed of about one thousand pounds, and have good encouragement of making an addition to that sum, so as to make a capital of twelve hundred pounds in the whole, and praying that they may have trustees appointed, and a succession thereof established and incorporated, vested with powers to take care of all the donations and subscriptions of every kind, and apply the interest and income thereof to the support of a learned Protestant Congregational Minister in the said society:

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the church and congregation in the district of Orange, whereof the Reverend Mr. Emerson Foster is the present minister, be, and they are

Society incorporated.