

to break, alter and renew at pleasure; That it shall be capable in Law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend, and be defended in all courts and places whatsoever, in all actions real, personal, and mixed and to do and execute all and singular other matters and things, that to them shall and may appertain to do.

Corporation
may make regu-
lations and elect
officers.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that said corporation may make establish and put in Execution such laws and regulations as may be necessary for the Government of said Corporation; *provided* that in no case the same shall be repugnant to the Laws and constitution of the Commonwealth — And for the well governing of said corporation, they shall have power to elect such officers as they shall hereafter think proper.

Purpose of the
Society.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the end and design of the institution of said Society is the promotion of the knowledge of navigation and seaman-ship, the relief of decayed and disabled seamen and the poor widows and orphans of deceased seamen.

John Thorlo
authorized to
call a meeting.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that John Thorlo, be and he is hereby authorized to fix the time and place at which the first meeting of said society shall be held and to notify the same to the members of said Society, by publishing the same in either of the Portland News papers fourteen days before the time fixed upon for holding the said meeting. *Approved February 26, 1796.*

1795. — Chapter 67.

[January Session, ch. 44.]

AN ACT TO MAKE FURTHER ALLOWANCE TO THE JUDGE OF PROBATE FOR THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK FOR HIS SERVICES.

Whereas the fees of the Judge of Probate for the County of Suffolk as by law established, may not be an adequate compensation for his services in that office.

Courts of Gen-
eral Sessions of
the Peace for
Suffolk Co.
authorized.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, & by the authority of the same, that the Court of General Sessions of the Peace in said County be, and hereby are authorized & empowered annually to grant out of the Treasury of the said County, unto the said Judge for the time being, such sum of money, in addition to the legal fees he may receive for his services, as to the said Court shall appear just and reasonable;

Provided the sum so to be granted, together with the said fees, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred Dollars per annum. And the said Judge of Probate shall keep an account of all the fees by him taken in his said Office, and shall lay such account attested by the Register of Probate before the said Court of Sessions annually, for their information, previous to their making him any grant by virtue of this Act.

Judge of Probate of Suffolk Co. to keep and render account of fees.

Approved February 26, 1796.

1795. — Chapter 68.

[January Session, ch. 40.]

AN ACT TO ENABLE SHERIFFS, DEPUTY SHERIFFS, & CONSTABLES, TO REQUIRE AID IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES IN CRIMINAL CASES.

SECT. 1. *Be it Enacted by the Senate & House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* that any Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, or Constable, being in the execution of his office, for the preservation of the peace, or for the apprehending or securing any person or persons for breach of the same, or for any other criminal cause, shall have lawful authority to require suitable aid & assistance therein. And if any person, being required by any Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, or Constable in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to aid & assist him in the execution of his office, as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse so to do & be thereof convicted before any Court proper to try the same, such offender shall be fined to the use of the County where the offence shall be committed, not less than three Dollars, nor more than fifty dollars according to the circumstances of the case; & if any such offender shall be unable or shall not forthwith pay the said fine, such Court may punish him by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days.

Civil officers may require aid in discharge of their duty in criminal cases.

Penalty for refusing to aid.

SECT. 2. *Be it further Enacted,* that if any person, not being really & *bona fide* a Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, or Constable, shall pretend himself to be either of the said Officers, and take upon himself to act as such, or to require any person or persons to aid or assist him in any matter appertaining to the duty of Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Constable, he shall be fined not exceeding four hundred dollars, according to the circumstances of his offence; one moiety thereof to the use of the Commonwealth, and the other moiety to him or them who shall prosecute therefor.

Persons pretending to be officers and acting as such subject to penalty.