

to serve for and represent them in the next general assembly, as well as if it had been made and passed before the issu[e]ing of the writs for the choice of representatives for the next general assembly.

Provided,

[SECT. 3.] That nothing in this act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to alter or deprive any town of the privilege of sending as many representatives as they have heretofore been impowered to send. *Proviso.* [Passed May 4, 1776.]

CHAPTER 27.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AN ACT, MADE AND PASSED BY THE GENERAL COURT IN NOVEMBER LAST, INTITLED "AN ACT FOR FIXING OUT ARMED VESSELS TO DEFEND THE SEA-COAST OF AMERICA, AND FOR ERECTING A COURT OF JUSTICE TO TRY AND CONDEMN ALL VESSELS THAT SHOULD BE FOUND INFESTING THE SAME."

WHEREAS, since the passing of [the] aforesaid act, the American Congress have passed a resolve, for certain reasons therein expressed, that it should be lawful for the inhabitants of the United Colonies to fit out armed vessels, to cru[i]s[z]e on the enemies thereof; and that all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture, and all goods, wares and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high-water and low-water mark, should be deemed and adjudged a lawful prize: excepting such vessels as should be taken in bringing any settlers, arms, ammunition, or warlike stores, to and for the use of the United Colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof who are friends to the American cause, — and warlike stores and effects of such settlers; *Preamble.* *1775-76, chap. 7.* and whereas, in and by the act aforesaid there is no provision made whereby the maritime courts thereby erected can proceed upon, try and condemn such vessels, cargo[e]s and merchandizes as are directed, by the resolve aforesaid, to be made prizes, —

Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That the several courts of justice erected in this colony by the act aforesaid, shall be and hereby are [e][i]mpowered to proceed upon, try, adjudge, condemn and distribute all such vessels, with their cargoes and appurtenances, and also all such British merchandizes and property as shall be taken in pursuance of the resolve aforesaid, or any other resolve of the American Congress, in the same manner as the said courts are impowered to proceed upon, try, adjudge and condemn any vessel[s] that shall be found infesting the sea-coast of America; and to distribute the same among the captors and others, according to the laws of this colony, when they shall be taken by the forces or the inhabitants thereof; and when they shall be taken by the fleet and army of the United Colonies, then to distribute and dispose of them according to the resolves and orders of the Congress. *Captures, how to be distributed.*

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That when any prize shall be taken by the forces employed by this colony, the same shall be distributed according to the

rules and regulations already made, or which shall be made, by this colony for other captures.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Wages of seamen and mariners, to be paid out of the proceeds of the prize.

[SECT. 3.] Than when any merchant ship or vessel shall be taken by virtue of said resolve, the wages of seamen and mariners who shall be taken on board the same, shall be paid out of the proceeds of the prize, up to the time of condemnation. [Passed May 8, 1776.]

CHAPTER 28.

AN ACT TO SUPPLY THE TREASURY WITH FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS, AND FOR DRAWING THE SAME OUT AGAIN.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary, in order to support the public credit of this colony, that the treasurer thereof shou[ld] be impower[ed] to borrow a sum not exceeding fifty thousand pounds.—

Be it therefore enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Treasurer empowered to borrow £50,000.

[SECT. 1.] That the treasurer[s] of this colony be, and he hereby is, impowered, on the credit thereof, to borrow, from such person or persons as shall be willing to lend the same, a sum not exceeding fifty thousand pounds; which sum the said treasurer is [e][i]mpowered to give his receipts or obligation for in form following; viz., —

Form of the note to be by him given.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, the day of , A. D. 1776.
Borrowed and received of , the sum of , for the use of the said colony of the Massachusetts Bay; and, in behalf of said colony, I do hereby promise and oblige myself and successors in said office of treasurer, to repay the said , or his order, the said sum of , upon the twentieth day of June, A. D. 1777, with interest at five per cent per annum.

Witness my hand,

H. G., Treasurer.

A. B.,
C. D., } Committee.

— which form shall be printed upon the best paper that can be had for the purpose, and a suitable border round the same.

And be it further enacted,

Committee to countersign the same.

[SECT. 2.] That Abraham Fuller and Jonathan Brown, Esqrs., be a committee to sign blank notes, at the left hand, as by the form aforesaid is prescribed, before the treasurer fill them up; of which notes a counterpart, indented, shall be kept by the treasurer.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

What shall be a fund for the redemption of the same

[SECT. 3.] That the money now due to this colony from the United Colonies, for the support of the present war, shall be a fund for the redemption of all such receipts and obligations as the said treasurer shall give for the aforesaid sum of fifty thousand pounds, or any part thereof, and shall be appropriated to that use.

And be it further enacted,

How to be appropriated.

[SECT. 4.] That the said sum of fifty thousand pounds, and each part thereof, shall be, when so borrowed, appropriated to the payment of such warrants as the council shall, from time to time, draw on the said treasurer for defreying the charges of the war and government agreeable to the grants of the general assembly. [Passed May 8, 1776.]