

as to them shall appear just and reasonable. And, for so much as shall not be by said court allowed and abated, the treasurer shall forthwith issue out his warrants as aforesaid to levy the same by distress and sale of the estate of such constables or collectors as were before indulged and forborn.

Also, it having been made to appear that several warrants issued out by the late treasurer of the province for making or collecting of the tax since his excellency the governour's arrival have miscarried,—

*Be it therefore enacted,*

[SECT. 5.] That the treasurer forthwith issue out new warrants to such towns and places, for such sun or sums the other were sent out for, which all selectmen are forthwith to assess, and constables or collectors to collect, by such rules and under such penalties as by the law relating to said tax were made and enjoined.

Treasurer to issue out new warrants where the former have miscarried.

*And whereas* the treasurer hath been ordered to make payment of what remains due, to several persons that lent their bills of credit to this province in or about June or July, one thousand six hundred ninety-two, many whereof have been or may be longer unpaid than the time they were promised payment in,—

*Be it therefore enacted,*

[SECT. 6.] That such as are not already paid (discounting what they owe to the province), shall be allowed for what is due to them by the treasurer, after the rate of six per cent per annum, for the value lent, from the expiration of the time they lent the same for, until they be paid or accept of the treasurer's order for payment of the same.

Allowance to such as lent their bills.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 7.] That all constables or collectors shall duely pay and answer all orders coming from the treasurer, out of the publick moneys in their hands, which they shall have collected for any publick tax or assessment, committed or hereafter to be committed unto them to collect, and that without delay. And if any constable or collector shall require, exact, receive, or take any fee, reward, allowance or abatement, directly or indirectly, from any person or persons, to hasten or forward his or their payment, and be thereof convicted, upon complaint or information brought before the sessions of the peace within the same county, such constable or collector shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds over and above the sum so taken, one-half thereof unto their majesties, towards the support of the government, and the other half to him or them that shall inform and prosecute for the same. [*Passed December 6, 1693.*]

Penalty on constables or collectors that exact or receive any fee to hasten payment.

## CHAPTER 9.

### AN ACT FOR BRISTOL FAIR.

WHEREAS the general court of the late colony of New Plimouth did, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eighty, grant unto the inhabitants of the town of Bristol, within said colony, that they should have liberty of keeping two fairs in said town of Bristol, annually, for ever: one upon the third Wednesday and Thursday in May, and the other upon the third Wednesday and Thursday in November; and it being found by experience that two days is not sufficient for the transacting the business of said fair, and that so late in November is inconvenient, both with respect to persons coming, it being many times very bad weather, and the chief time for selling fat cattle being sooner,—

*Be it therefore enacted by the Governour, Council and Representatives convened in Great and General Court, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,*

Times for holding Bristol fair.

That from henceforth the said fair shall be kept and held in Bristol aforesaid, within this province, upon the third Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in May, and on the third Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in October, annually, forever, and at no other time, any law, custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding. [*Passed December 7; published December 9.*]

## CHAPTER 10.

### AN ACT FOR THE REGULATION OF SEAMEN.

WHEREAS great loss and damage is frequently occasioned to trade and navigation by seamen deserting their employ or voyage they are entred upon, or being taken off from the same by arrest and restraint for debt, or pretence thereof; for remedy whereof,—

*It is declared and enacted by the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

No mariner or seaman to be arrested for any debt made whilst he belongs to a ship, &c.

[SECT. 1.] 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 process or attachment, for any debt so contracted without knowledge and allowance as aforesaid, shall be granted against or served upon such mariner or seaman, until he shall have performed the voyage he is then entred upon, and be discharged of the same. And every process granted contrary hereunto, and 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 appear that any mariner or seaman belonging to any ship or vessel is committed or restrained, upon process granted for any debt or pretention of debt made whilst such mariner or seaman was engaged and actually entred and in pay on any voyage, shall forthwith order his release.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

Penalty on masters shipping seamen first entertained on board another ship, &c.

[SECT. 2.] That if the master or commander of any ship or other vessel shall ship any seaman, knowing him to be first entertained and ship't 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, one moiety thereof to the use of the poor of the town where the offence was committed, and the other moiety to him or them that shall inform and sue for the same by action, bill, plaint or information in any court of record; and such seaman so shipping himself 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.

Seamen's penalty.

*And further it is enacted,*

Seamen deserting their service to be imprisoned.

[SECT. 3.] That if any mariner or seaman, having ship't himself on board any ship or other vessel to proceed in any voyage, and under pay (the same being made apparel by his hand set to the master's book 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 to any justice of the peace within the same county, such justice is hereby impowred to convent such mariner or seaman before him,