

to remain and be kept to labour, until they be discharged by order of the court of general sessions of the peace, unless such person or persons so complained of shall give reasonable caution or assurance, to the satisfaction of the justice or court, that they will reform: *provided*, this act shall not be construed to extend to hinder any single woman of good repute from the exercise of any lawful trade or employment, for a livelihood, whereto she shall have the allowance and approbation of the selectmen or overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding: *provided*,—

[SECT. 3.] This act shall continue in force for the space of three years next coming, and to the end of the session of the general assembly next after. [*Passed November 27; published December 3.*]

CHAPTER 15.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO THE ACT FOR PUNISHING OF OFFICERS OR SOULDIERS WHO SHALL MUTINY OR DESERT THE SERVICE.

WHEREAS it is provided by the said act, “that no court martial shall consist of fewer than eleven, whereof none to be under the degree of a commission officer;” and it being found difficult oftentimes to assemble such a number of commission officers that are under pay, without removing them to a great distance from the places of their respective command, which may prove hurtful to the service,—

1699-1700, ch. 21,
sect. 3.

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

That from time to time, during the continuance of the afore-recited act, the want of such officers in pay may be supplied out of the commission officers of the standing militia in the several parts where such court martial shall sit, no such officers so supplied to be under the degree of a captain; anything in the aforesaid act to the contrary notwithstanding. [*Passed November 30; published December 3.*]