

and the former laws relating to the said ferry, under the penalty therein provided.

And, for preventing of abuses oftentimes offered to ferrymen, by cheating them of their ferrage, or putting them to make unreasonable exchange,—

Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Ferrage to be paid before landing. Unreasonable exchange not to be required.

[SECT. 2.] That it shall and may be lawful to and for the ferrymen to demand and receive pay of all passengers before they set them on shoar; and that the ferrymen shall not be required or obliged to exchange for above the value of three shillings and sixpence, where the ferrage does not exceed that sum. [*Passed June 10; published June 28.*]

CHAPTER 2.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AND FOR EXPLANATION OF THE ACT FOR THE SETTLING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ESTATES OF INTESTATES.

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

1692-3, chap. 14. Brothers and sisters of any person deceased intestate without wife or children to be sharers with the mother. 3 Mass. 15. 12 Mass. 492. Allowance to widows.

[SECT. 1.] That if, after the death of a father, any of his children shall dye intestate, without wife or children, in the lifetime of the mother, every brother and sister and the representatives of them shall have an equal share with her in the estate of the intestate, anything in the aforesaid act for the settling and distribution of the estates of intestates to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 2.] That every judge of probate, in making up and passing the accompts of administration of the estates of persons deceased, be and is hereby directed to have consideration and make allowance of necessary bedding, utensils and implements of household, necessary for the upholding of life, to the use of the wife and family of the deceased, where provision is not made for the wife in that respect by will; and such necessary bedding, utensils and implements of household shall not be accounted assets in the hands of the executor or administrator, nor subject to the payment of debts, although the estate prove insolvent, as they could not have been leyed or distreined for debt in the partie's lifetime, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. [*Passed June 21; published June 28.*]

CHAPTER 3.

AN ACT RELATING TO SEARCHERS AND SEALERS OF LEATHER AND CLERKS OF THE MARKET.

WHEREAS there are several town[s] officers of whom an oath is by law required, but no penalty provided upon their refusal,—

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

Searchers and sealers of leather and clerks of the market, penalty for refusing to serve.

That if any person chosen to the office of a searcher and sealer of leather, or clerk of the market, in any town, shall refuse to take the oath respectively required by law for executing of such office, without reasonable excuse made, and accepted by the justices of the court of general sessions of the peace within the same county, for his not serving, shall pay forty shillings fine, to the use of the poor of such town, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. [*Passed June 28; published July 1.*]