

C A P I.

An ACT for the establishing and regulating a
MILITIA.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Security and Preservation of this Island at all Times, and especially during the Continuance of the present War and unhappy Rebellion, greatly depends upon a Militia being established and embodied, as soon as possible, under such Regulations as may make the same most useful for the Support and Defence thereof, and that the Inhabitants should be well armed, and properly trained up in the Art Military, as well for the Honour and Service of His most Sacred Majesty, and the security of this His Island, against any hostile Attack or Invasion whatsoever, as for the Preservation of their own Lives and Fortunes; and that every Person may know his Duty herein, and be obliged to perform the same:

From one Month after Publication, all Male Subjects between 16 and 60, to bear arms and attend military Musters, &c. of Companies in which they are enrolled.

I. *Be it enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Assembly,* That from and after one Month next from the Publication hereof, all Male Persons, Planters, and Inhabitants, and their Servants, between the Ages of Sixteen and Sixty, residing in, and belonging to this Island, shall bear Arms, and duly attend all Musters and military Exercises of the respective Companies, in which they shall or may be enrolled or belong.

Repealed by 3d Will. 4th, c. 30, s. 1.

II. And the Clerk of each Company, once a Quarter, yearly, shall take an exact List of all Persons living within the Precincts of such Company, and present the same to the Captain or Chief Officer, on Pain of forfeiting *Twenty Shillings* for each Default, to be paid to the Captain or Chief Officer for the Use of the Company; and in case of Non-payment, the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Virtue of a Warrant from any Justice of the Peace in this Island, who is hereby empowered to grant the same.