

Merchant Shipping Acts, &c., Amendment.

20. The 197th Section of the Principal Act shall extend to Seamen or Apprentices who within the Six Months immediately preceding their Death have belonged to a *British Ship*; and such Section shall be construed as if there were inserted in the First Line thereof after the Words "such Seaman or Apprentice as last aforesaid" the Words "or if any Seaman or Apprentice who has within the Six Months immediately preceeding his Death belonged to a *British Ship*." Wages and Effects of deceased Seamen.

21. The Wages of Seamen or Apprentices who are lost with the Ship to which they belong shall be dealt with as follows; (that is to say): Recovery of Wages, &c. of Seamen lost with their Ship

- (1.) The Board of Trade may recover the same from the Owner of the Ship in the same Manner in which Seamen's Wages are recoverable :
- (2.) In any Proceedings for the Recovery of such Wages, if it is shown by some official Return produced out of the Custody of the Registrar General of Seamen or by other Evidence that the Ship has Twelve Months or upwards before the Institution of the Proceeding left a Port of Departure, and if it is not shown that she has been heard of within Twelve Months after such Departure, she shall be deemed to have been lost with all Hands on board, either immediately after the Time she was last heard of or at such later Time as the Court hearing the Case may think probable :
- (3.) The Production out of the Custody of the Registrar General of Seamen or of the Board of Trade of any Duplicate Agreement or List of the Crew made out at the Time of the last Departure of the Ship from the United Kingdom, or of a Certificate purporting to be a Certificate from a Consular or other public Officer at any Port abroad, stating that certain Seamen or Apprentices were shipped in the Ship from the said Port, shall, in the Absence of Proof to the contrary, be sufficient Proof that the Seamen or Apprentices therein named were on board at the Time of the Loss :
- (4.) The Board of Trade shall deal with such Wages in the Manner in which they deal with the Wages of other deceased Seamen and Apprentices under the Principal Act.

22. Whereas under the 211th and 212th Sections of the Principal Act, and the 16th Section of "The Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855," Provision is made for relieving and sending home Seamen found in Distress abroad : And whereas Doubts are entertained whether Power exists under the said Sections of making Regulations and imposing Conditions which are necessary for the Prevention of Desertion Relief of distressed Seamen to be regulated by Board of Trade.