

*Amended by
3 Vict. C. 22*

out Leave, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace in any part of this Island near to the place where such Ship shall happen to be, upon Complaint of the fact made upon Oath by the Master, Mate, or Owner thereof, and such Justice is hereby required, by his Warrant to cause such Seaman to be apprehended and brought before him; and in case such Seaman shall not give a reason to the satisfaction of such Justice for his neglect, refusal, or absence, as the case may be, upon due Proof of such neglect, refusal, or absence, it shall be lawful for any such Justice to commit such Seaman to the County or District Jail, or to the House of Correction, there to be kept at hard Labour for a period not exceeding Thirty Days: Provided always, that in case such Seaman, on being apprehended and brought before the said Justice, shall consent to join the Ship and proceed on the Voyage for which he shall have agreed, it shall be lawful for the said Justice, at the request of the Master, instead of committing such Seaman, to cause him to be conveyed on board the said Ship, or to be delivered to the Master for the purpose of proceeding on the Voyage, and also to award to the Master such Costs incurred in the Apprehension of the Seaman as to such Justice shall seem reasonable, not exceeding in any case the sum of Two Pounds, exclusive of Jail Fees, which shall be chargeable against and may be abated from the Wages to grow due to such Seaman.

Seamen absenting
themselves from
their duty.

VII. And be it further enacted, That if any Seaman, after having signed such Agreement as aforesaid, or after the Ship on board which he shall have agreed to serve, shall have left her first Port of Clearance, and before the period for which he shall have agreed to serve shall be completed, shall wilfully and without Leave absent himself from the Ship, or otherwise from his Duty, he shall (in all cases not of absolute Desertion, or not treated as such by