

Discharge be in Writing, and signed by the Plaintiff, or his Attorney, lawfully empowered to receive the same. And the said several Courts are hereby empowered to proceed to examine into the Merits of the same, in like manner as in Book Accounts between Plaintiffs and Defendants, and equitably to reduce all such Bonds, Notes, Bills, and Writings obligatory, to the just Debt, with Interest, Damages, and Costs, according to the nature of such Writing, Deed, or Instruments: and the Jury are hereby empowered to give their Verdict accordingly.

C A P. XV.

An Act to empower the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, to appoint a Sheriff or Sheriffs for this Island, also to regulate the Office of Sheriffs, and the manner in which they shall return and pass their Accounts of all Fines and Forfeitures levied by them, for the Use of the Crown.

Amended by 48th
Geo. 3d, c. 2.

WHEREAS the important Duties of Sheriff Preamble. have been hitherto executed in this Government by a *Provost Marshal*, an Officer whom His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint in the Infancy of His respective Colonies, before fit persons could be had to fill and supply that Office: And although such appointment may have been highly necessary and expedient in this Island at the time it was made, yet, as the same is not annual, as is that of Sheriff, and the Salary allowed for such an Office not being sufficient to maintain him as a Gentleman, without having recourse to other means for subsistence: *And whereas* the most probable means for him to adopt for that purpose are such as his Office may afford, and which a needy man is too apt, if continued long therein, to find out, and to be