

should not displease the Admiralty. Government is in my debt to a much greater amount than twelve months; and altho' I have not enjoyed any emolument, perquisite, or profit, from any business or employment whatever, the only reason advanced for detaining my property, is the want of being qualified every six months, by swearing the contents of a certificate as the result of my own pleasure and inclination, when an order of council commands me, and absolutely prohibits the payment until I do.

A voluntary act is an avowed freedom of choice, and under that denomination cannot, to swear justly, admit the influence of a compulsory order; but I am not allowed any choice, swear I must, and swear the oath I take is not enforced by order, compulsion, or necessity, but a voluntary act of my own, received with equal freedom as the air I breathe; and as an indemnification for imposing an improper oath, I am obliged by the same rule to leave my signature duly attested
by

Nfld.

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