

An Act to amend and consolidate the Provincial Acts for preventing the Desertion and regulating the Shipping of Seamen.

**W**HEREAS great frauds have been committed and much inconvenience felt under the present system of shipping Seamen at the Port of Quebec ; and Merchant Vessels resorting to the said Port have been subjected to unnecessary detention, and their masters and crews to violence and outrage by the unlawful acts committed by persons attempting to induce Seamen to desert, or forcibly causing them to leave the same, to the great damage of the owners of such Merchant Vessels and of the character of the said Port of Quebec ; And whereas it is necessary to prevent such frauds and to repress such lawless acts : Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows :

SHIPPING-MASTERS, AND THEIR DUTIES.

1. From and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor, or the person administering the Government of this Province, for the time being, to constitute and appoint during pleasure, two fit and proper persons to be Shipping Masters for the said Port of Quebec, and who shall each previously to their acting in such capacity, enter into bonds, with two responsible sureties, to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, in the penal sum of five hundred pounds currency each, for the faithful discharge of their duties, (which bonds shall enure to the benefit of all parties who may be damnified by the misfeasance, malfeasance or non-feasance of the said Shipping Masters, or of either of them, as the case may be, and all parties damnified shall be entitled to recover from any one of them, and his sureties, before any Court of competent jurisdiction, to the amount to which they may have been so damnified) ; and the said Shipping Masters shall, each before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath, before any one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Court of Queen's Bench for the District in which the Shipping Master shall reside, and such oath shall be filed and kept as part of the records of the said Court.
- " I, A. B., do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and truly perform the office and duty of Shipping Master according to the true intent and meaning of the Act passed by the Legislature of this Province, in the twentieth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to amend and consolidate the Provincial*

Preamble.

Two Shipping Masters to be appointed for the Port of Quebec.

To give security.

And take an oath of office.

The oath.