

VI. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall continue and remain in force for and during the space of *Seven Years*, from and after the passing thereof, and from thence until the end of the next Session of the General Assembly of this Island, and no longer.

This Act to remain in force for 7 years.

C A P. VIII.

AN ACT for the better regulation of MERCHANT SEAMAN, and to repeal part of an Act passed in the Fiftieth year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled an Act to prevent the Harbours Deserters from His Majesty's Navy or Army, and for giving a reward for apprehending Deserters, and to prevent Harbours DESERTERS from Ships in the MERCHANT SERVICE.

January 8, 1819.

WHEREAS great loss and damage is frequently occasioned to Trade and Navigation by Seamen deserting their employ, or Voyages they are entered upon or being taken off from the same by Arrest for Debt, or pretence thereof, for remedy :

Preamble.

I. *Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Assembly*, That if any Inn-keeper, or Seller of Rum, and other strong Liquors, Shop-keeper, or any person whatsoever, shall trust or give credit to any Mariner or Seaman, belonging to any Ship or other Vessel, without the knowledge and allowance of the Master or Commander thereof, in any sum of Money, no Capias, Arrest, or any other Process for any Debt so contracted, without the knowledge and allowance as aforesaid shall be granted against or served upon the Person of such Mariner or Seaman, until he shall have performed the Voyage he is then entered upon, and be discharged of the same, and every Process issued contrary to this Act shall be deemed and adjudged utterly void in Law, and any one Justice of the Court from whence such Process shall issue to whom it shall be made to appear that any Mariner or Seaman is committed or restrained upon Process granted, for any such Debt or pretence of Debt, made whilst he was engaged and actually entered and in pay on any Voyage, shall forthwith order his release, upon filing common Bail to the Action.

No attachment or Process for Debt, to be served upon any Seaman when engaged in a Voyage.

II. *And be it further enacted*, That if any Master or Commander of any Ship or Vessel, or any other Person or Persons shall Hire or Engage, Harbour or conceal any Seaman, Mariner, or other Person, who shall have signed any former Contract or Articles, knowing him to have deserted from any Ship or Vessel within this Colony, every such Master, Commander or other Person or Persons so offending, and being thereof convicted, shall forfeit and pay the sum of *Twenty Pounds*, to the use of the party aggrieved, to be sued for in any Court of Record, proper to try the same, in which Action

Any Person having or concealing any Seaman or other Person, who shall have signed any former Contract knowing him to have deserted from any Vessel to forfeit £20.