

Wages claimed  
by Seamen dis-  
puted.

XV. And whereas Seamen, in cases of dispute, may be exposed to great inconvenience, expense and delay, in obtaining payment of their Wages; for remedy thereof be it enacted, That in all cases of Wages not exceeding Twenty Pounds which shall be due and payable to a Seaman for his service in any Ship as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace in any part of this Island, near to the place where the Ship shall have ended her Voyage, entered or cleared at the Custom House, or discharged her Cargo, or near to the place where the Master or Owner upon whom respectively the claim is made shall be or reside, upon complaint on Oath to be made to such Justice by any such Seaman, or on his behalf, to summon such Master or Owner to appear before him to answer such complaint; and upon the appearance of such Master or Owner, or in default thereof, on due proof of his having been so summoned, such Justice is hereby empowered to examine upon the Oath of the parties and their respective Witnesses (if there be any) touching the Complaint and the amount of Wages due; and to make such Order for the payment thereof as shall to such Justice appear reasonable and just; and in case such Order shall not be obeyed within Two Days next after the making thereof, it shall be lawful for such Justice to issue his Warrant to levy the amount of the Wages awarded to be due, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the party on whom such Order for payment shall be made, rendering to such party the overplus (if any shall remain of the produce of the Sale), after deducting thereout all the Charges and Expenses incurred by the Seaman in the making and hearing of the complaint, as well as those incurred by the Distress and Levy and in the enforcement of the Justice's Order; and in case sufficient Distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful for the said Justice to cause the amount of the said Wages