

of the Convoy, and upon Conviction thereof shall be fined, at the Discretion of the said Court, in any Sum not exceeding Five hundred Pounds, and shall suffer such Imprisonment, not exceeding One Year, as the said Court shall adjudge, shall be painted on a Board, and affixed on some conspicuous and convenient Part of every Ship or Vessel which by this Act is required not to sail or depart without Convoy; and that in Default thereof every Master or other Person, having the Charge or Command of any such Ship or Vessel, shall forfeit, for every such Offence, the Sum of Fifty Pounds.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any Ship or Vessel, which by this Act is required not to sail or depart without Convoy, shall be in imminent Danger of being boarded or taken Possession of by the Enemy, the Master, or other Person having the Charge or Command of such Ship, shall make Signals, by firing Guns, or otherwise, to convey Information of his Danger to the Rest of the Convoy, as well as to the Ships of War under the Protection of which he is sailing; and that in case of such Ship being boarded and taken Possession of, he shall destroy all Instructions confided to him relating to the Convoy; and every Master, or Person having the Charge and Command of such Vessel, who shall neglect to make such Signals, or shall wilfully omit to destroy such Instructions as before mentioned, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit a Sum not exceeding the Sum of One hundred Pounds.

XII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained with respect to Ships or Vessels sailing or departing without Convoy, or afterwards deserting, or wilfully separating or departing from such Convoy, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any Ship or Vessel which shall sail or depart from the Islands of *Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark, or Man*, or either of them, for or on Account of such Sailing or Departure, on or before the Fifth Day of *August* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, or from any other Port or Place in *Europe*, on or before the Fifth Day of *September* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, or from any Port or Place in the *West Indies*, or any other Part of *America*, on or before the Fifth Day of *October* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, or from any Port or Place in *Africa* or *Asia*, on or before the Fifth Day of *November* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That One Moiety of all pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures hereby imposed, as far as the same relate to Ships or Vessels sailing without Convoy, or wilfully separating or departing from such Convoy, or to Insurances, shall (if sued for within the Space of One Year from the Time of any such Penalty or Forfeiture being incurred) be to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety thereof, with full Costs of Suit, to the Person or Persons who shall inform or sue for the same within the Time aforesaid, and which shall and may be sued for in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* for Offences committed in *England*, or at Sea, or in Parts beyond the Seas, and in His Majesty's Court of Exchequer at *Edinburgh* for Offences committed in *Scotland*, by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint, or Information, wherein no Essoin, Privilege, Wager of Law,

on every Vessel required to sail with Convoy, on Penalty of 50*l*.

Masters of Vessels in Danger of being boarded by an Enemy, to make Signals to the Rest of the Convoy, and if boarded, to destroy Instructions, on Penalty of 100*l*.

Act not to extend to Vessels sailing from *Guernsey, &c.* on or before *Aug. 5*; from any other Port in *Europe*, on or before *Sept. 5*; in the *West Indies* or *America*, on or before *Oct. 5*; and in *Africa* or *Asia*, on or before *Nov. 5*, 1798.

Recovery and Application of Penalties.