

Penalties.

Entrance in our ports of any officer of a foreign armed vessel committing a trespass or tort upon vessels of the U. States on the high seas forbidden.

If found in the U. States contrary to the interdiction, how to be dealt with.

To be liable to prosecution and punishment for other offences.

Collectors and marshals to be instructed touching the execution of this act.

This act may be given in evidence, &c.

Limitation of this act.
1803, ch. 46.

person or persons so offending, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, and shall also be liable to be bound to their good behaviour.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That whensoever any officer of an armed vessel commissioned by any foreign power, shall on the high seas commit any trespass or tort, or any spoliation on board any vessel of the United States, or any unlawful interruption or vexation of trading vessels actually coming to or going from the United States, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, on satisfactory proof of the facts, by proclamation to interdict the entrance of the said officer, and of any armed vessel by him commanded within the limits of the United States, and if at any time after such proclamation made, he shall be found within the limits of the United States, he shall be liable therefor to be arrested, indicted and punished by fine and imprisonment, in any court in the United States having competent jurisdiction, and it shall be a part of the sentence that he shall within such time after the payment of his fine and the expiration of his term of imprisonment, as the court shall direct, leave the United States, never to return. And if he shall return within the limits of the United States, after the passing of such sentence, or be found therein after the period limited by the court as aforesaid, he shall again be liable to be indicted, fined and imprisoned at the discretion of the court: *Provided always*, that if the said officer shall also have committed any other offence made punishable by this act, he shall be liable to prosecution and punishment; the provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized and required to give, as soon as may be, after the passage of this act, to the collectors of the respective districts, and to such other persons as he may think proper, the necessary instructions for carrying this act into effect, particularly marking out the line of conduct to be observed by the marshal, and the several collectors in performing the duties enjoined by this act.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall be sued for any thing done in pursuance of, or in obedience to this act, he may plead the general issue and give this act in evidence, any law, custom or usage to the contrary, notwithstanding.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue in force for the term of two years, and from thence to the end of the next session of Congress, and no longer.

APPROVED, March 3, 1805.

STATUTE II.

March 3, 1805.

[Expired.]

Owners, &c. of armed vessels bound to the W. Indies, &c. &c. to give bonds, &c. &c.

Arms, &c. &c. to be returned or otherwise accounted for.

CHAP. XLII.—An Act to regulate the clearance of armed merchant vessels.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That after due notice of this act at the several custom-houses, no vessel owned in whole, or in part, by any citizen or citizens of the United States, or by any person or persons residing within the same, or the territories thereof, and armed, or provided with the means of being armed at sea, shall receive a clearance, or be permitted to leave the port where she may be so armed, or provided, for any island in the West Indies, or for any port or place situated on the continent of America, between Cayenne and the southern boundary of Louisiana, without bond with two sufficient sureties being given by the owner or owners, agent or agents, together with the master or commander, to the use of the United States, in a sum equal to double the value of said vessel, her arms, ammunition, tackle, apparel and furniture, conditioned that such arms and ammunition shall not be used for any unlawful purposes, but merely for resistance and defence,