

person shall within that time claim them, he shall sell them at public sale, and after deducting all charges, shall pay the balance to the Treasurer of Maryland, who shall keep an account of the same for the benefit of the owners or insurers, who, upon proof of their property to the satisfaction of the Comptroller, shall upon his warrant receive the same.

158. If any person besides those empowered by the wreckmaster shall enter, or endeavor to enter, on board any vessel in distress without the leave of the commanding officer, or if any person shall molest him or them in saving the vessel or goods, or shall endeavor to hinder the saving such vessel or goods, or shall deface the marks of any such goods before they are taken down in a book by the wreckmaster, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to be recovered by the owner of the vessel or goods in any court of record in this State, and in case of failure to pay such forfeiture immediately, or giving security to pay the same within one month, he shall receive not exceeding thirty-nine lashes on his bare back by order of such court.

159. Any commanding officer of a vessel in distress, or the wreckmaster, may repel by force any persons who shall without consent press on board such vessel and thereby molest them in preserving the vessel or goods.

160. If any goods shall be found upon any person that were stolen or carried off from any vessel in distress, he shall, upon demand, deliver the same to the owner or wreckmaster, or to such other person as shall be authorized by either of them to receive the same, or shall be liable to pay four times the value, to be recovered with costs in any court in this State.

161. If any person shall make, or assist in making, a hole in any vessel in distress, or steal any pump, materials or goods from any vessel, or shall wilfully do any thing tending to the immediate loss of such vessel, he shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction, shall be sentenced to the penitentiary not less than five nor more than fifteen years.

162. If any wreckmaster shall by fraud or wilful neglect abuse the trust reposed in him, he shall, upon conviction, forfeit and pay four times the damages to the party aggrieved, to be re-