

An ACT for the protection of our Bay trade, and to defend our citizens exposed to plunder by the enemy's barges.

BE it enacted, *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That four large barges (or row-boats) be immediately procured, and fitted out with sails, oars, cannon, and twivels, and well manned, and provided in every respect for a cruise within the bay until the first day of January next; and that one galley, or other vessel of force, be procured, fitted out, armed, and manned, to cruise with the said barges; and that the governor and the council be authorized and requested to appoint and commission a captain, and first and second lieutenant (brave and experienced seamen or mariners) to the command of each of the said barges, and such number of proper officers to command the said galley, or vessel of force, and a skilful surgeon, with one or more mates, as they may think necessary; and the governor and council may allow to such officers such pay, according to their rank, in current money, and such rations and privileges, as they may think proper.

Barges to be procured, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That the following barges, to wit: The large barge, now in the dock of Annapolis, built at Salisbury; the two barges, one called Dashiell's barge, now also in the said dock, and the other the Protector, now in Pocomoke; and the barge at Cambridge, called the Defence, if to be procured from the proprietors on reasonable terms; be fitted out as before directed.

What barges are to be fitted out, &c.

III. And, For the manning the said barges, and galley or vessel of force,

IV. Be it enacted, That two hundred and fifty men (to consist of a due proportion of able seamen, and watermen or persons used to bay-craft, and landsmen or marines) be raised by voluntary enlistment, to serve on board the said vessels until the first day of January next, or for a longer term; and every person entering into this service shall witness the same, by voluntarily subscribing an engagement to serve as a seaman, waterman, or marine, as the case may be, on board of some one of the barges, or galley or other vessel of force, belonging to this state, according to the terms mentioned in their respective enlistments, unless sooner discharged by order of the governor and the council; and all officers, seamen, watermen, and marines, engaging in this service, shall be subject to the last articles established by congress for the government of the navy of the United States.

Men to be raised, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That no person shall be enlisted; but such as are able bodied, perfect in all their limbs and sight, of sound health, and without ruptures or other visible infirmities, above five feet four inches high, and above sixteen and under fifty years of age; and if above forty, of robust constitutions; and natives are to be preferred, and such as are connected by marriage, or have property in the state; and no deserters from the British army or navy; or servants or apprentices, are to be enlisted on any account; and the officer enlisting shall make return of the names of each person enlisted, the time when, and the country

None but able bodied persons to be enlisted, &c.