

in, to the great Loss and Damage of his Majesty's Subjects the good People of Maryland: To prevent therefore so great an Evil, it is prayed that it may be Enacted;

C H A P. IX.

II. And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same; That from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, when, and as often as, any Commander, or Master of a Vessel above Eighteen Feet by the Keel, shall come to Enter with, or take out a Permit from, any Naval-Officer within this Province, or the Limits or Precincts thereof, it shall not be lawful for such Naval-Officer to suffer such Commander, or Master, to Enter such his Vessel with him or them, or grant him or them a Permit to Trade within the said Province, until such Commander, or Master, shall have taken the following Oath on the Holy Evangels of Almighty GOD, or Affirmation if a Quaker, which Oath, or Affirmation, such Naval-Officer or Officers are hereby impowered to administer, viz. " I A. B. Commander of the Ship or Vessel C. will not clandestinely conceal, or permit to be concealed, on board my Ship or Vessel, during my stay within this Province, any Servant or Slave, belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants thereof, nor will wittingly or willingly carry away out of this Province, any Servant or Slave, or Servants or Slaves, belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants therein, or any Person or Persons Indebted therein, common Sailors excepted, contrary to the Laws of this Province. So help me GOD."

Masters of Vessels above 18 Feet Keel, shall not Enter, or obtain Permit, till they have taken the following

Oath.

III. And be it likewise Enacted, That no Master of a Vessel coming into this Province, and Entering to Trade therein, shall suffer any Slave or Slaves, Servant or Servants, to frequent his or their Vessel or Vessels, or come on board or conceal such Servant or Servants, or Slave or Slaves, on board such his or their Ship or Vessel, or Ships or other Vessels: And in case any Servant or Servants, Slave or Slaves, shall be kept or concealed on board any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, coming into and Trading within this Province, for the Space of One Hour or longer, the Master or Commander of such Ship or Vessel, shall forfeit and pay at the rate of Twenty Shillings Current Money, for every Hour each Servant or Slave shall be suffered to frequent his or their Vessel, or be kept or concealed on board his or their Vessel, to the Party owning such Servant or Slave, or Servants or Slaves, the same to be recovered in a summary Way, before One Justice of the Peace, with Costs.

Penalty on Masters, &c. suffering Servants or Slaves to frequent their Ships, or concealing them on board.

IV. Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for any Master or Commander of any Ship or Vessel coming into, or Trading within, this Province, to hire any Servant or Slave, Servants or Slaves, from any Inhabitant within this Province, to Work on board such his or their Ship and Vessel, or Ships and Vessels; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

But Servants or Slaves may be hired to Work on board.

V. Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby Enacted and Declared, That where it shall happen, the Master of such Ship or Vessel as aforesaid, shall, by reason of Sickness, be rendered unable to attend on such Naval-Officer, that then, and in such Case the Chief-Mate, or next Officer of such Ship or Vessel, shall be admitted to make Entry of the said Ship or Vessel; and that afterwards the said Master, as soon as he is Able, and before the Clearing of the said Ship or Vessel, shall be, and is hereby obliged, to take the said Oath, or Affirmation if a Quaker, as aforesaid.

In case of the Master's Sickness, the Mate, &c. may Enter; but the Master before Clearing, shall make Oath as above.

VI. This Act to continue for Three Years, and unto the End of the next Session of Assembly which shall happen after the Expiration of the said Three Years.

Continuanc.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN, THOMAS BACON.

Farther continued by 1757, ch. 9; and 1760, ch. 2; for 3 Years, &c. But by 1763, ch. 10, is made PERPETUAL.