

of the seamen constitute a lien upon the vessel, or the proceeds derived from the sale of it. This claim will be first considered.

This Steam Packet Company was incorporated by the act of 1829, chapter 42, for the purpose of establishing and conducting a line or lines of steamboats, vessels, and stages or other carriages, between Baltimore and Fredericksburg, and the several ports and places on the Rappahannock, and the other rivers and waters of the Chesapeake bay, for the conveyance of passengers, and transportation of merchandise and other articles.

The purpose, then, for which the company was incorporated, was to open a communication by water between the ports of Maryland and Virginia. The vessels were to ply between the two states in the waters of the Chesapeake bay and the Rappahannock, and there would seem to be no doubt, indeed it is not understood to be questioned, that the seamen have a right, for wages due them in such service, to proceed by libel in the District Court of the United States, and that, as a general rule, they have a lien on the vessel, her tackle and furniture. *Smith vs. the Pelein*, *Gilpin's Rep.*, 203; *Wilson vs. the Ohio*, same book, 505.

In this last case the libel was for wages on board a steamboat plying between the ports of adjoining states, on a navigable tide river, and the proceeding was sustained; and it was also decided, that the title to sue in the admiralty for wages, extended to the pilot, the deck hands, the engineer and the firemen.

In short, this right to libel the vessel in the admiralty courts for wages, extends to every officer and man who assists in navigating her except the captain. *Ross vs. Walker*, 2 *Wilson*, 264.

The authorities are abundant to show, that the officers and seamen (except the captain) have a triple security for their wages—they may have recourse to the vessel, the owner, and the master. *Bronde, et al. vs. Haven*, *Gilpin's Rep.*, 592, 595; 3 *Kent's Com.*, 196, 197.

Chancellor Kent speaks of the seamen's claims for wages as entitled to the favor and protection of the law—that this claim