

## C H A P. II.

## An ACT to prevent desertion.

To continue during the war. Expired. This act empowered any person to apprehend a man suspected of being a deserter, and to carry him before a justice of the peace for examination, &c. It proposed a reward for the apprehender, and inflicted fines on the harbourers or concealers of deserters, and on the constable who should neglect to execute this act, and on persons who should refuse to assist him, and upon those who should deal for arms, horses, cloaths, or other furniture, knowing them to belong either to this state or to the United States. These fines were leviable by distress and sale of goods, under a warrant, for the sole use of the informer; and if they could not be so levied, the offenders, for the first offence, were to suffer three months imprisonment; for the second offence, if the fines were not levied, the offenders might be punished by whipping not exceeding 39 lashes.

A magistrate, upon oath or affirmation, might issue his warrant to search any house suspected of harbouring a deserter, and, for that purpose, to break doors if not opened on demand. A penalty of 20 dollars, however, was to be inflicted on any person who, without a warrant, should break open a house under pretence of searching for a deserter, and this penalty was to be awarded to the party grieved, and might be levied either on the body or goods.

## C H A P. III.

## An ACT to promote the recruiting service.

This act exempted any inhabitant of the state, enlisting into a state battalion, or into any of its artillery companies, from arrest for debt under £. 12 sterling, £. 20 currency, or 2000lb. of tobacco; and it also exempts his property from attachment or execution for such debt. If an arrest, attachment or execution, took place contrary to this act, a single justice of the peace, on complaint of the party, or his officer, might discharge the person; and unless it were made appear, that waste was committed in the property, by the soldier, his wife, or the person having the care and possession of it, the justice might set aside the attachment or execution, and award costs. But this act did not expose the creditor to be affected by the act of limitations, on account of the delay occasioned by it.

Recruiting officers were authorized to enlist servants or apprentices not having more than eighteen months to serve, on paying to their masters the value to which they might be appraised by a justice, who was, in all cases where the recruit was entitled to freedom dues, to make the master account to him for the sum of £. 6 in lieu of them. But if an officer enlisted a servant or apprentice, and neglected, on demand of the owner, to carry him before a justice, he forfeited to the owner the sum of £. 10, to be recovered and levied on the person or property, under a warrant.

The governor was required to appoint in every hundred, a person to collect blankets. The duty of this officer was to call on every house-keeper in his district for an account of his stock of blankets, over and beyond the number generally used by his family in the winter, and this account, if the collector thought proper, was, under the penalty of £. 20, to be delivered on oath. The like penalty was to be incurred if one half of such surplus blankets were not delivered to the collector. The value of them was to be ascertained either by agreement, or by the valuation of one sworn appraiser, and discharged by the treasurer of the respective shore, who was to transmit, with all convenient speed, to the governor and council, fair lists of the blankets so collected and paid for. The collectors, before they acted, were directed to take an oath for the faithful discharge of duty; and for their services they were to be allowed a commission of five per cent. besides their reasonable charges for conveying the blankets to the places of deposit, which were Chester-town for the eastern, and Baltimore or Annapolis for the western shore. The whole stock so collected was subject to the orders of the executive.

## C H A P. IV.

## An ACT to expedite the march of troops in and through this state.

**W**HEREAS it is necessary to establish some regular plan for the supply-  
 ing of troops marching to, in or through, this state, for the defence  
 thereof, or of any other of the United States, with proper teams, and  
 carriages and boats, for expediting the march of the said troops, with their baggage and military stores: And whereas neither carriages or boats ought to be impressed for any other purpose, or in any other manner, than as directed by the legislature;

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly,* That any justice of the peace within any county, from, through, near, or to which, any battalion, detachment, troop or company, employed in the service of this state or the United States, may be ordered to march, shall, on the written application of any officer having the quartering, disposition, direction or command, of such battalion, detachment, troop or company, issue his warrant or warrants to any one or more of the constables of the county of which he is a justice, requiring him or them to provide, in his or their hundred or hundreds, by hire or contract, at the rates hereafter ascertained for prest carriages and teams, such a number of carriages and teams, with able men to drive the same, as shall be mentioned in the said warrant or warrants; and if the number required cannot be so procured, then to prest in his or their hundred or hundreds respectively, such a number as shall be wanting to make up their respective deficiencies; but if the emergency of affairs requires an immediate supply

Preamble.

Justice, on application of any officer, &amp;c. shall issue his warrant to constables to hire or prest carriages, &amp;c.

supply