

An ACT to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state in the service of the United States, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, from a variety of causes, the United States have not complied with their engagements heretofore made with their officers and soldiers (which has occasioned great and unavoidable difficulties and distresses in the service) to whose virtuous and disinterested exertions America is much indebted :

Commissioner appointed, &c.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That Zephaniah Turner be and is hereby appointed commissioner, to settle and adjust the pay due to the officers and soldiers of the troops of this state, and the said commissioner is hereby empowered and directed, to estimate, in specie, all sums of paper money received by the said officers and soldiers, on account of their pay or otherwise, agreeable to a scale of depreciation herein after mentioned, according to the value thereof at the time of the money received ; and that all cloathing furnished by this state to their officers and soldiers, which were not properly chargeable to the United States, shall be deducted out of their pay, at the value aforesaid in specie.

Who is to give certificates, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioner is hereby empowered and directed to give to the officers and soldiers aforesaid, to whom pay as aforesaid may be found due, after deducting for cloathing furnished as aforesaid, one certificate or more, bearing interest from the date thereof, and specifying the sum due in specie, so that no certificate shall be for less than one fifth part of the sum due to the person to whom the same shall be given, and that the whole of the certificates given to the same person shall amount to the sum only due to him, which certificate shall be paid out of such part of confiscated British property as shall be appropriated for that purpose ; and the commissioner is hereby directed to provide printed certificates, in such manner and form as he shall judge necessary, to be by him applied to the uses and purposes aforesaid.

Not to be transferrable, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That in order to prevent the certificates of the non-commissioned officers and privates aforesaid from being counterfeited, or becoming objects of speculation, no transfer or assignment of the same shall be good and valid in law or equity, unless attested by the officer commanding the regiment or troops to which such soldier shall belong.

Commissioner to adjust the pay of officers, &c.

V. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioner shall in like manner settle and adjust the pay and accounts of all officers and soldiers who have fallen or died in the service, and their widows and children shall be entitled to such certificates, and to all the benefits and advantages thereby granted to the officers and soldiers in the said service.

His oath.

VI. *And be it enacted,* That the said commissioner, previous to his entering on the duties required of him by this act, shall take the following oath or affirmation, to wit : " I, A. B. do swear or affirm (as the case may be) that I will well and truly perform all and singular the duties required of me by the act to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state in the service of the United States, and for other purposes therein mentioned, to the best of my knowledge and abilities, without favour, affection, partiality or respect, to any person whatsoever ;" and the said commissioner is hereby fully authorized and directed to settle the aforesaid accounts upon oath or affirmation, which oath or affirmation shall be by him administered.

Assembly may call in certificates, &c.

VII. *And be it enacted,* That this or any future assembly, notwithstanding the provision made as aforesaid, may, if they think proper, call in all such certificates given and not returned as aforesaid, and pay off the same in specie or other current money equivalent.

VIII. *And*