

be real value of the money contracted, to be paid at the time of breach, with interest, and such damages may be laid and assessed in the new money, and so much thereof given or recovered as may be equal to the value of the debt or damages as aforesaid, with interest.

And be it enacted, That all debts, promises, contracts, covenants, and agreements, hereafter made by writing or parol for gold or silver, or paper money, shall be paid, discharged, or executed, agreeable to the bond, bill, note, or other instrument in writing, or the parol, promise, or agreement, and the intent and meaning of the parties, any law to the contrary hereof notwithstanding; and where any debt, promise, or contract, made before the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, has been renewed since that day, and any bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing, given or executed for the same, or where any debt, covenant, promise, contract, or agreement has been bona fide created or made, since the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, for gold, silver, or sterling, in such cases the bills of credit issued by congress, or emitted by any acts of assembly, under the old government, or resolves of convention, shall not (after the passing of this act) be a tender or payment in law or equity for any such debt, covenant, promise, contract, or agreement.

And be it enacted, That the bills of credit issued by congress, or emitted by any acts of assembly under the old government, or resolves of convention, shall not, after the passing this act, be a tender or payment in law or equity, for any debt, covenant, promise, contract, or agreement, created or made before the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, unless where the creditor has not become a subject and resident of this or some one of the United States, since the said first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and in such case the debtor or such creditor, or of his assignee (who has not become a subject and resident of this or some one of the United States, and who hath not had an attorney in fact, acknowledging himself as such for the purpose of receiving debts always since that time, and constantly residing within this state since the said first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six) and the executor or administrator of such debtor may, and he is hereby authorized, on making oath (or affirmation, if a Quaker, Mennonite or Dunker) to be lodged with the treasurer, that he hath received, for debts due before the first of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, to him or the person to whom he is heir, executor, administrator, or representative, to the amount by him in such oath or affirmation specified, and that he hath not paid for debts due before that time, by himself or the person to whom he is heir, executor, administrator, or representative, above the sum in such oath or affirmation specified, or on making oath or affirmation, to be lodged with the treasurer, that before the twentieth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, he sold property for the purpose of paying debts by him, or the person to whom he is heir, executor, administrator, or representative, contracted before the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and that he constantly kept the money by him received, or so much of the same, or other money, as he shall specify in his oath or affirmation, or that, before the said twentieth day of April, he sold property for the purpose of paying his debts as aforesaid, and that he left the money in the hands of the purchaser, where it remains, for the purpose of paying his debts as aforesaid, such debtor may pay, to either of the treasurers of this state, the amount of the money by him received and kept as aforesaid, or left as aforesaid, or the balance by him received above what he hath paid as aforesaid, or any part thereof, in discharge of the debt due to such creditor, in the said continental convention, or bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly under the old government aforesaid, on or before the twentieth of March next, or in the said new bills of credit, or bills emitted under the act to enable the treasurer of the western shore to draw and sell bills of exchange, and for an emission of bills of credit if necessary, at the rate of one dollar of the same bills for every forty dollars due and payable at any time before the first day of July next; and such payment shall be deemed in law a payment of such creditor or his assignee, and the treasurer's receipt shall be good evidence in the courts of law and equity of the payment of such debt, and shall be allowed sufficient in the courts of law and equity, and in the orphans courts, on the administration of the estates of deceased persons, and the treasurers shall exchange any continental, convention, and bills emitted by acts under the old government,

by him so received for new bills, at the rate of one for forty, and the same, together with all new bills, and bills emitted by the said act of assembly, which may be paid for the purpose aforesaid, shall retain in his office, liable to the attachment of creditors, and subject to the future direction of the general assembly.

And be it enacted, That where any executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or factor, has received any of the said bills of credit, it shall and may be lawful for such executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or factor, and he is hereby authorized to pay and discharge to the amount of the money by him actually and bona fide received, in the new bills of credit, at the said rate of one dollar of the said new bills for every forty dollars by him received. Provided always, that if the executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or factor, hath not paid away the money by him received in the aforesaid bills of credit, in a course of administration, or otherwise expended it in pursuance of the trust reposed in him, or kept the same by him, but hath converted the same to his own use, in any manner, except by lending the same, then such executor, administrator, guardian, trustee, or factor, shall be accountable, on oath or affirmation, for the value of the money so received, at the time the same was as aforesaid converted to his own use.

And be it enacted, That the bills of credit, emitted by the act or assembly to enable the treasurer of the western shore to draw and sell bills of exchange, and for an emission of bills of credit if necessary, and the act for sinking the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress, and the bills of credit to be emitted in virtue of this act, shall be a tender for all debts contracted before the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and all debts for gold, silver, or sterling, contracted since that day and before the twelfth day of June last, at the passing current value of the said bills of credit at the time of tender, and not otherwise, that value to be ascertained by a jury.

And be it enacted, That all that space of time from the first day of July one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, to the passing of this act, shall not be reckoned or considered as part of the time limited by law for bringing or prosecuting any action or suit for recovery of any debt due by judgment, bond, bill, note, account, contract, or otherwise, and this act and the special matter may be given in evidence on the general replication.

And be it enacted, That no suit shall be commenced or prosecuted by any creditor against his debtor, for a debt contracted before the first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, or after that day and before the twelfth day of June last, for gold, silver, or sterling, in less than two years from the passing this act, unless the debtor shall neglect or refuse to pay the interest annually due on such debt, in gold or silver, or new bills at the value, in thirty days after a demand made, or hath removed or shall be about to remove himself or his effects out of this state, or shall refuse to renew his obligation, with securities if required, by his creditors. Provided always, that this act shall not be extended to actions to be prosecuted against guardians, executors, administrators, or trustees, and that the said time shall not be taken or held as part of the time limited by law for prosecuting such suits.

And be it enacted, That the commissioner of the continental loan-office shall not allow for continental bills of credit any other rate of exchange than one dollar of the new bills for forty dollars continental currency, and so much of the act, entitled, An act for sinking the quota required by congress of this state of the bills of credit emitted by congress, as directs a different rate of exchange, shall be and is hereby repealed and made void.

*Paids*

H A G U E, July 9.

WE hear that there is no more talk of the holding of a congress here; her majesty the empress of Russia having signified her desire to have the conference held at Petersburg, the states general have in consequence appointed, on the proposal of the prince stadtholder, Mess. de Wassenaar de Starrenburgh, and de Heekeren de Brantzenburgh, deputies to the assembly of their high mightinesses, from the provinces of Holland and West-Friesland and of Utrecht, ministers plenipotentiaries to go to Petersburg, in order to assist at the conferences to be held there for the protection of neutral commerce.

Aug. 17. Mess. Jean, Texier, and co. merchants, of Amsterdam, presented a memorial to the states general, on the 9th of this month, setting forth, "That the arbitrary conduct of the court of Great Britain, in stopping the vessels of this republic, even though not laden with con-

traband goods, was a great hindrance to the trade in general, and particularly prejudicial to them, as they could not execute the commission of the foreign correspondents by sea with any safety that they were therefore determined to send the commissions of hemp, copper, &c. for which they had orders from France, by the way of the Baltic, until such time as the naval force of the republic is upon a proper footing effectually to protect the trade; that they only required forbearance of their high mightinesses, that they would exempt those merchandises which they expected soon to receive from Petersburg and Hamburg, from the duties of coming in, going out, and transit, as they meant immediately to ship the said merchandise for France, by the way of the Baltic."

The raising of sailors for our fleet goes on with great success.

Paris, Aug. 2. A number of troops are daily marching towards Normandy and Bretagne, and it is said that arms will be formed next month near the coasts of those provinces.

Aug. 10. Fifteen ships of the line which are in Brest road, including the Hector and Valiant, which arrived on the first of this month, with two frigates and a cutter, are to sail from thence. There are the St. Louis, of 74 guns, the Auguste of 80, and Northumberland of 74. The frigates are the Glory and Concord, and the cutter is the Leverette. The destination of this squadron is not said.

Aug. 11. We hear that four corsairs of Denmark have attacked, in the North sea, a fleet of 52 sail of English merchantmen, escorted by a frigate, and that they have taken several of them, which they carried into the ports of Denmark.

It is reported, that the court of Lisbon has little disposed to accede to the treaty of armistice neutrality, which was proposed to her by the count de Bellefleur, minister plenipotentiary from Russia. It is further said, that the king of Spain has caused it to be declared to the queen of Portugal, "That in her Most Excellent Majesty's intention to treat with such marks of distinction the English ships, to receive into her ports the prizes, and permit them even to be sold there, his catholic Majesty would look upon that proceeding as tending to destroy entirely the union that subsists between the two courts, &c."

Cadix, Aug. 5. The combined fleet, which sailed the 10th of July, returned here again the 28th, having found nothing to do in the cruise, and they put to sea again on the 30th.

Lisbon, Aug. 1. The English men of war and privateers continue to take and bring into port such Dutch merchantmen as they meet with laden for the enemy's account, and, in spite of repeated representations, sell their cargoes. The publicly sold yesterday, to the highest bidder, the cargoes of the ships de Buitenweert and de Neerulitec.

Katibon, Sept. 17. On Wednesday morning last a fire broke out at Straubing in Lower Bavaria, which in less than fourteen hours consumed two large churches, one convent, two of three public edifices, and upwards of 180 private houses, making in all nearly half the town. The damage is estimated at upwards of 500,000.

Madrid, Sept. 11. It is said here that the emperor of Morocco has permitted the Spaniards to attack English vessels under the cannon of his forts, and to pursue them on his coasts.

We have accounts from Cadix, that the combined fleet entered that port the 29th of last month, and that the English troops, who were prisoners on board, will be landed at St. Mark where all the other prisoners and passengers are, and from whence they will be sent to Cordova.

Stockholm, Sept. 19. The following is the substance of the report of captain Harald Christoffer of the Black Eagle, a Swedish frigate, which appeared in the public papers, dated Spitzbergen July 29, viz.

"That having sailed from Hellingsor, as convoy to the merchantmen confided to his care, he perceived on the 16th of July, at noon, off the start, in the English channel, two armed vessels bearing down on the convoy; upon which he ordered all the vessels to keep as near him as possible, and prepared for battle. About two o'clock he saw one of the armed vessels, which bore the English colours, sent out her boat to a vessel which did not belong to his convoy, but bore the Swedish colours; upon which captain Harald hoisted his colours, and fired one gun, which the armed vessel did not mind, but boarded the above vessel, who struck her colours; that he then thought he ought to repel force by force, and accordingly fired 22 times with 22 pounders the privateer, whom he obliged to leave the vessel, and upon returning to his convoy he found the other armed vessel had dared to send out her boat towards two of his convoy, but after firing many shot at her, he obliged her to steer off, that after this he brought the vessels under his

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