

1774.

3 HENRY HARFORD, Esq;

C H A P. XXIII.

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An ACT for regulating the gauging of Casks in the Town of Baltimore.

Preamble.

WHEREAS great Abuses are daily committed in the buying and selling of Wine, Rum, and other liquid Merchandizes, in disproportionable Casks, in Baltimore-Town, which have been usually gauged by the Diagonal, which is known not to be an exact Rule to find the Contents of a disproportionable Cask, and the Persons selling such Commodities commonly refusing to submit to any other Method or Rule of gauging, the Purchaser is thereby imposed upon, and often suffers great Loss in want of just Measure; for the Redress of which Abuse for the Future in the Town aforesaid,

Persons not to sell any Cask of liquid Merchandize before the Gauger shall have marked on the Head the full Contents, under Penalty.

II. Be it enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That if any Merchant or other Person whatsoever, shall sell, or put to Sale, any Butt, Tun, Pipe, Hogshead, Barrel, or other Cask of Rum, Wine, Molasses, or other liquid Merchandize, imported, brought into, or made in the said Town, before the Gauger hereafter mentioned, or his Deputy, shall have plainly and truly set down or marked upon the Head of such Vessel, the Capacity and full Contents of the same, according to the Standard and Excise of Wine Measure, by the Gallon, each Person or Persons shall forfeit, for the Uses directed in this Act, the Sum of Eight Pounds Current Money for every Cask so sold or put to Sale.

Penalty on Persons putting to Sale such Merchandize when the Cask shall be found to lack of the Contents marked.

III. And be it enacted, That if any Merchant or other Person shall sell, or put to Sale, any such Rum, Wine, Molasses, or other liquid Merchandizes, as aforesaid, in the said Town of Baltimore, in any Cask or Vessel having the Number of Gallons set down and marked on the Head of such Vessel, and the same shall be found to lack of the Contents marked on the said Vessel, such Person shall forfeit and pay, to the Uses directed in this Act, the Sum of Eight Shillings Current Money for every Gallon marked or numbered on the said Cask more than it will truly contain.

Gauger to be appointed by the Commissioners of Baltimore-Town.

IV. And, To the End that all Persons dealing in such Merchandize may the more easily and readily be informed and assisted in discovering the true Quantity of such liquid Merchandize, so imported, brought into, or made in the said Town. Be it further enacted, that the Person who shall be appointed Gauger of Wine, Rum, Molasses, and other liquid Merchandizes in the Town aforesaid, by the Commissioners of Baltimore-Town aforesaid, for the Time being, or the major Part of them, which Commissioners, or the major Part of them, are hereby empowered to appoint such Gauger, and him remove and another in his stead, the said Gauger (before he enters upon his said Office, having taken an Oath, or Affirmation if a Quaker, well and truly to execute the Office of Gauger in said Town, between Buyer and Seller) is hereby empowered by himself, or his proper Deputy or Assistant, to gauge all such Rum, Wine, Molasses, or other liquid Merchandize, imported, brought, or put in any Butt, Tun, Pipe, Hogshead, Barrel, or other Cask, in the said Town, when he the said Gauger, or his Deputy, shall be thereunto required; and that they shall mark and set down the true Number of Gallons, according to the English Standard and Excise of Wine Measure, which each Cask or Vessel will truly contain, with their own Mark; all which Casks,

His Duty, &c.