

where the same shall happen (upon Complaint by the Party or the Officer inlisting such Person, or by any of his superior Officers) to examine into the same by Oath, and if such Soldier shall be arrested, or Attachment or Execution shall issue, or Distress be made, contrary to this Act, such Justice shall forthwith discharge such Soldier; and, unless it shall appear to him that any Fraud, by Sale, Gift, or Waste, hath been committed by such Soldier, or the Wife or Person in whose Possession and Care the Estate of such Soldier may be, shall declare such Attachment, Execution, or Distress, void, and order the Plaintiff, or the Person making such Distress, to pay the Costs thereof; provided nothing herein contained shall prohibit the Collection of any public, County, or Parish Tax, due from any Soldier.

II. And be it enacted, That the Creditors aforesaid shall not be affected by the Act of Limitations, from and during the Time they shall be precluded as aforesaid, from prosecuting their Claim, nor shall the Delay of suing out Execution, during such Time, operate so as to prevent the suing out the same, after the Discharge of such Debtors from the Service; and if the Act of Limitations be pleaded, this Act and the special Matter may be given in Evidence on the general Repliation.

Creditors not to be affected by the Act of Limitations, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That any recruiting Officers may inlist in any of the Battalions raised by this State, or in any of the Artillery Companies, for the immediate Defence thereof, and retain in such Service, any Apprentice or Servant, whose Time of Servitude shall not exceed eighteen Months, and shall not be valued by some Justice of the Peace at more than sixteen Pounds, common Money; and in every such Case the Magistrate shall deduct from the Value of the said Servant or Apprentice, the Sum of six Pounds, common Money, for Freedom Dues, if such Servant or Apprentice should be intitled to any Freedom Dues at the Expiration of his Service, and the Appraisement or the Balance, after such Deduction, shall be immediately paid by the Officer to the Master or Owner of such Apprentice or Servant, and discounted out of the Bounty and Wages of such Recruit; but if the Time of Servitude of any such inlisted Servant or Apprentice should be valued at less than his Freedom Dues, such Justice may order the Difference to be paid by the Master to such Servant or Apprentice, and on Refusal may, by Warrant to any Constable, levy the same on his Person, Goods, or Chattels; and such recruiting Officer, on Application to him by the Owner or Master of any Apprentice or Servant, shall immediately repair to the next Justice of Peace to ascertain and value the Time of Servitude of such Servant or Apprentice; and if such Officer shall neglect or refuse to go before such Justice, on such Application, he shall forfeit and pay to such Owner or Master ten Pounds, current Money, to be recovered before any Justice of the Peace, and to be levied on the Offender's Person, Goods, or Chattels; or such Officer shall be subject to an Action for Damages, at the Election of the Party grieved.

Recruiting Officers may inlist Servants or Apprentices, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That the Governor, on the Recommendation of the General Assembly, shall appoint a proper and discreet Person in every Hundred of each County of this State, who shall repair to, and require, every House-keeper within his Hundred, except

Governor to appoint Persons to take an Account of and collect overplus Blankets, &c.