

C H A P.
XX.

month after their return to this state, shall be liable to the treble tax, and to the disabilities imposed by this act.

Proviso.

XXII. *Provided*, nevertheless, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any persons who, having fled from this state as aforesaid, shall, at any time since their flight, have taken an active part against the same, or against the United States, by adhering to the British army or navy.

XXIII. *And*, For the better ascertaining what persons have fled from this state, as aforesaid,

Justices to en-
quire after
persons who
have fled, &c.

XXIV. *Be it enacted*, That the justices of the several county courts shall annually, at their respective August courts, make diligent enquiry after every person who has fled from his county as aforesaid, or who, returning after the first day of March next, shall neglect to take the oath or affirmation aforesaid, within the time limited as aforesaid, and the said justices shall enter his name on the minutes of the proceedings of their court at their then sitting, and, from the said minutes, shall make a fair and alphabetical list of the names of all such persons as aforesaid, and transmit the same to the governor and council.

XXV. *And*, Whereas many of the male subjects of this state, above the age of eighteen years, are out of this state, on some lawful purposes, in some of the neighbouring states, or in parts beyond the seas,

Persons absent
on lawful bu-
siness not af-
fected by this
act, &c.

XXVI. *Be it enacted*, That no such person shall be affected by any matter or thing contained in this act, unless such person, for three months after his return, shall wilfully neglect to take the said oath or affirmation (as the case may be) before the governor and council, or some magistrate of the county or city where he resides.

XXVII. *And*, In order to discover whether the persons aforesaid, absent from this state on or before the first day of March next, and returning after that day, have taken the oath or affirmation aforesaid, within the time limited as aforesaid,

Justices to
make enquiry
after persons
returning, &c.

XXVIII. *Be it enacted*, That the justices of the several county courts shall annually, at their respective August courts, make diligent enquiry after all such persons returning as aforesaid, and omitting to take the oath or affirmation aforesaid, within the time limited as aforesaid, and shall enter their names on the minutes of the proceedings of their court, and fair and alphabetical lists make thereof, and transmit them to the governor and council.

XXIX. *And*, Whereas all persons in the regular service of this state, or of the United States, or of any of them, have already given, by such service, sufficient proof of their attachment to the freedom and independence thereof,

Officers, &c.
not affected
by this act.

XXX. *Be it enacted*, That no general, field, commissioned, warrant, or staff officer, or other officer, nor any soldier or person in the regular service of this state, or the United States, or any of them, shall be affected by any matter or thing herein contained.

XXXI. *And*,