

1780.

L A W S of the S T A T E of

C H A P.
XVI.

in the chancery office, and an attested copy of said bond and probate from the said record, shall be as good evidence in law to maintain an action of debt for the breach of the condition thereof, as if the said bond or bonds were actually produced and proved in court.

To account
quarterly, &c.

XIV. And be it enacted, That every naval officer shall, once in every three months, transmit to the governor and council a copy of the entry and clearance of every vessel within his district for the three preceding months, and shall account on oath once in every three months (or oftener if required by the governor and the council) with the treasurer of their shore, for all rates, duties, or imposts, and for all sums of money or quantities of tobacco by him collected or received, or which he shall be answerable for by law, and the account rendered shall contain the particular articles and quantity on which any rate, duty, or impost, shall be laid, and every naval officer shall pay to the treasurer of his shore any balance in his hands, once in every three months, or oftener if required, by the governor and the council, and in case of neglect he shall be answerable for and liable to pay an interest of ten per cent. on the balance due on his account.

To take an
oath, &c.

XV. And be it enacted, That the several naval officers, at the time they respectively give bond according to the directions of this act, shall take the following oath or affirmation (if a quaker, menonist, or dunker) to wit: "I, A. B. do swear (or solemnly, sincerely, and truly, declare and affirm) that I will conduct myself diligently, honestly, and faithfully, in the execution of the trust reposed in me as naval officer of this state, and according to the best of my skill and knowledge;" and in case of neglect or failure, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred pounds, a certificate of which oath shall be recorded, together with the bond given by such naval officer.

XVI. And, To ascertain how far owners of ships and vessels shall be answerable for goods or merchandise which shall be made away with by the masters or mariners, without the privity of the owners thereof:

How far owners
are liable
for the im-
bezzlement of
masters, &c.

XVII. Be it enacted, That no person or persons, who is, are, or shall be owner or owners of any ship or vessel, shall be subject or liable to answer for or make good to any one or more person or persons, any loss or damage, by reason of any imbezzlement, secreting or making away with (by the master or mariners, or any of them) of any goods, wares, or merchandise, which from and after the first day of May next shall be shipped, taken in, or put on board any ship or vessel, or for any act, matter, or thing, damage or forfeiture, done, occasioned, or incurred, from and after the said first day of May next, by the said master or mariners, or any of them, without the privity and knowledge of such owner or owners, further than the value of the ship or vessel, with all her appurtenances, and the full amount of the freight due or to grow due for and during the voyage, wherein such imbezzlement, secreting, or making away with, as aforesaid, or other malversation of the master or mariners, shall be made, committed, or done, any law, usage, or custom, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

XVIII. And