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neglect shall be liable to pay thirty-five pounds in specie, or the value thereof, to the lieutenant of his county, who shall issue his warrant to the sheriff to levy the same in the manner herein before directed; and if any female, the mistress of any family, shall entertain, harbour, or conceal, any deserter, and shall be thereof convicted as aforesaid, she shall furnish and deliver an able bodied recruit as aforesaid, or be liable to the payment of the same penalty as aforesaid, to be levied as aforesaid; and if any person, liable to such penalty for not procuring a recruit as aforesaid, shall be unable to pay the same, the lieutenant of the county may commit such person, for any time not exceeding six months, to the work-house or the gaol of his county, there to be kept to hard labour.

Suits to be
commenced
within six
months, &c.

XXV. And be it enacted, That if any suit or action shall be brought or prosecuted against any person or persons for any thing done in pursuance of this act, the action or suit shall be commenced within six months after the fact committed, and not afterwards, and the defendant or defendants, in any such action or suit, may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, and that the same was done in pursuance and by authority of this act, and if it shall appear so to be done, or if any such action or suit shall be brought after the time limited for bringing the same, then the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or suffer a discontinuance of his, her, or their action, or if a verdict shall pass against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, or upon demurrer judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall and may recover treble costs, and have such remedy for the same as any defendant or defendants hath or have for costs of suit in other cases at law.

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A Supplement to the act to procure recruits. c 43

Draught may
be suspended,
&c.

BE it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That if cloathing and money can be obtained to encourage and promote the recruiting service, and there is a probability that nearly the number of recruits proposed by the act aforesaid to be raised can be procured by voluntary enlistment, the governor and council shall have full power and authority and are hereby requested to order the draught in the said act mentioned to be suspended, either generally, or in such counties as have heretofore exerted themselves in procuring recruits under the laws of this state, until the meeting of the next general assembly.

II. And, Whereas many of the non-commissioned officers and privates who have served in the quota of this state of the continental army, and who have been discharged because their times have expired, may be inclined to enter again into the service:

Persons re-en-
listing enti-
tled to a cer-
tificate, &c.

III. Be it enacted, That in case any person, sufficient and proper to be passed as a recruit, who hath already served one year or more in the continental army, and hath been discharged, and shall enter as a recruit according to the act of the present session to procure recruits, shall