

shall not only be entitled to all the benefits proposed by the said act, <sup>C H A P.</sup> XLIV, XLV. but also to a certificate for the depreciation of the pay which became due to him while he was in service, between the first of January seventeen hundred and seventy-seven and the last day of July last, as if he was in the quota of this state of the continental army at the time of passing the act of the present session to settle and adjust the accounts of the troops of this state in the service of the United States, and for other purposes.

*N 103*

C H A P. XLV.

An ACT to seize, confiscate, and appropriate, all British property within this state.\*

**W**HEREAS Great-Britain commenced an unjust war against <sup>Preamble.</sup> the United States, and because of their defending themselves against her unprovoked and unjustifiable violence, declared the people of these states rebels, and out of the protection of her government; and now prosecutes the war against them on pretence of their being revolted colonies and in rebellion, and hath confiscated the property of some of the citizens of these states; the British army and navy, and other armed vessels, acting under the authority of the British king, have seized in this and other of the United States the negroes and other property of the citizens of these states, and the property so seized have carried off and disposed of at their will and pleasure; the said army and navy, and other armed vessels, have committed various outrages on the persons, and devastations on the property, of the people of these United States, contrary to the practice of civilised nations, and the present usage of war, in burning houses and towns, without any necessity, out of mere wantonness and cruelty; unfortunate American prisoners, by cruel usage and threats, have been compelled to enlist in the army of their enemies; and fight against their country; and many of the citizens of these states, taken captive, have been forced on board ships of war, and compelled, under an act of the parliament of Great-Britain, and the cruel execution of it by the officers of the king of Great-Britain, to fight against their country, their friends, and relations: And whereas the subjects of Great-Britain possess considerable landed and other property in this state, which the legislature, from a disinclination to distress individuals, hath suffered to remain in the hands and management of their agents, hoping that a conduct so moderate would induce the enemy to respect the rights of humanity, emulate the example, and alleviate the calamities of war; but such lenity and forbearance, instead of meeting with a proper return, have been falsely imputed to pusillanimity and a dread of retaliation, and seem rather to have encouraged the enemy to acts of violence and cruelty: And whereas the trustees of this state have lately, on the advice of the officers of the crown of Great-Britain, refused to pay the money belonging to this state in the Bank of England: And whereas, in defiance of public faith, and in breach of the capitulation of Charles-town, the British officer commanding in that department, under frivolous pretences, has imprisoned the persons of several respectable citizens of that state, and confiscated their property; and from the general conduct of the enemy it may justly be inferred, that their hatred and cruelty is not to be softened or restrained by any respect to the usages of war,

\* *vid 1780. Oct. c 30-49-51*      *A a 23. 1781. May c 20-33-37, Nov. c 2-20-31*  
*1782 April c 6-10-19-25-26-29-44-52-59-60-*