

An A C T laying a duty on British vessels, and for other purposes.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it appears by a proclamation of the king of Great-Britain, bearing date the second day of July last, that the growth or produce of any of the United States is prohibited from being carried to any of the British West-India islands by any other than British subjects, in British built ships, owned by British subjects, and navigated according to the laws of Great-Britain: And whereas this proceeding, which excludes the vessels of any of the United States from carrying the growth or produce of said States, or any of them, to any of the British West-India islands, or from importing or bringing from said islands any of their growth or produce, is repugnant to the principles of reciprocal interest, and aims at the sole monopoly of the carrying trade;

Five shillings
per ton im-
posed on Bri-
tish shipping,
&c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a duty of five shillings be and hereby is imposed on every ton of British shipping, at the entrance or clearance of any ship or other vessel, to be collected and paid into the treasury in the same manner prescribed in an act passed at November session, 1782, entitled, An act for the defence of the bay, and to impose certain duties on imported articles.

Two per cent.
to be paid on
British mer-
chandise, &c.

III. *Be it enacted,* That an additional duty of two per centum, ad valorem, over and above what is now paid, or may hereafter be paid, by the citizens of this state, be and hereby is imposed and directed to be collected, in the same manner as other duties imported in vessels the property of the citizens of this state, or the United States, upon all merchandise, manufactures and commodities, the growth or produce of Great-Britain, or any colony or other place under the dominion of Great-Britain, brought or imported in any British ship, or other British vessel owned or belonging in part or wholly to any British subject or subjects; provided that all merchandise, manufactures and commodities, being the property of any citizen or citizens of this, or the United States, brought or imported into this state before the first day of August next, in ships or other vessels owned as aforesaid, shall not be subject to the payment of the duty aforesaid.

No registers to
be granted for
vessels owned
by British sub-
jects, &c.

IV. *Be it enacted,* That no register shall be granted for any ship or other vessel owned in whole or part by any British subject, any law to the contrary notwithstanding; and the master, owner or mate, of any ship or other vessel for which register is required, shall make oath that the said ship or vessel is not owned, either in whole or any part thereof, by any British subject.

Delegates to
congress may
ratify articles,
&c.

V. *And,* For the more effectual removal and prevention of all restraints laid, or that may be laid, upon the commerce of the United States, *Be it enacted,* That the delegates from this state to congress are hereby authorized and empowered, in the name and on behalf of this state, to agree, and ratify any article or articles, by which the United States in congress assembled shall be invested with a power to prevent or prohibit the importation of all foreign goods or commodities