

court, or any county court within this state, such person shall forfeit and pay five hundred pounds current money.

C H A P.
LXXIX.

XXI. **And be it enacted,** That on all ships or vessels belonging to this state, there shall be paid, at entrance or clearance, by the master or owner thereof, a duty of six-pence current money per ton, and upon all other ships or vessels there shall be paid by the masters or owners thereof, at entrance or clearance, a duty of one shilling current money per ton, and on all ships or vessels entering or clearing at the port of Baltimore, a duty of one penny per ton shall be paid by the masters or owners, to the wardens of the said port, for the purposes mentioned in an act of the general assembly, entitled, An act appointing wardens for the port of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, passed at April session one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and the several naval officers shall, and they are hereby required, to collect and receive the said duties, and pay the same into the treasury of the shore where such naval officer shall reside, twice in every year, to wit, on the tenth day of June and on the tenth day of December, or within twenty-one days thereafter; and the said naval officers shall be and are hereby allowed a commission of four per centum for collecting, receiving and paying, the duties as aforesaid; and if the said duties, or any part thereof, shall remain unpaid at any of the periods on which the same ought to be paid as aforesaid, the naval officer making such default, shall forfeit and pay twenty per centum per year on such sum as shall be due and unpaid, and shall be suspended from the exercise of his said office until the same shall be paid.

Duty on entrance, &c.

XXII. **And be it enacted,** That if any person shall forge or counterfeit any register, clearance, certificate or permit, granted by any naval officer, and shall be thereof convicted in the general court, or any county court in this state, he shall be fined not exceeding five hundred pounds current money, or imprisoned not exceeding twelve months, or suffer corporal punishment not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of the general court, or county court.

Penalty on counterfeiting registers, &c.

XXIII. **And,** to prevent the wilful casting away, burning, or otherwise destroying any ship or vessel, by the owner, master or mariners thereof, **Be it enacted,** That if any owner, master or mariner, of any ship or vessel above forty feet keel, and registered according to law, shall, from and after the present session of assembly, wilfully cast away, burn, sink, or otherwise destroy, such ship or vessel, or in anywise direct or procure the same to be done, with intent to prejudice any person that hath or shall underwrite any policy or policies of insurance thereon, or of any merchant or merchants that hath or shall lade goods thereon, or of any owner or owners of such ship or vessel, or of any merchandise therein contained, the person or persons so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted in the general court, or any county court of this state, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy.

Persons wilfully destroying vessels, &c. to suffer death.

XXIV. **And,** to ascertain how far owners of ships and other vessels shall be answerable for goods, wares and merchandise, which shall be put on board, and lost or destroyed by the master or mariners, without the privity and consent of such owners, **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 any loss or damage by reason of any embezzlement, 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 present session of assembly, shall be shipped, taken in, or put on board, any ship or vessel, or for any act, matter or thing, damage or

How far owners are accountable for goods, &c.