

C H A P.  
LXXIX.

Duties to be  
paid in gold,  
&c.

XXXI. And be it enacted, That the duties on tonnage for registering, and entering or clearing of ships or vessels, and all fines and forfeitures, and fees of office imposed by law, shall be paid in gold or silver coin, as estimated in the act, entitled, An act to declare what foreign gold and silver coin shall be deemed the current money of the state.

District to  
be divided,  
&c.

XXXII. And be it enacted, That the first of the districts appointed for naval officers shall be divided into two, and a ninth district erected from Piscataway creek (including the eastern branch) up the river Patowmack to the extremity of the state; and that his excellency the governor, with the advice of the council, be requested to appoint and commission a naval officer for such district.

Masters to  
contract with  
seamen, &c.

XXXIII. And be it enacted, That from and after the first day of May next, it shall not be lawful for any master or commander of any ship or vessel above forty feet keel, bound to any port or place out of this state, to carry any seaman or mariner (except his apprentice or apprentices) to sea, from any port or place where he or they were entered or shipped, to proceed on any voyage to any such port or place, without first agreeing or contracting with such seamen or mariners for their wages, which agreement or contract shall be made in writing, declaring what wages each seaman or mariner is to have respectively during the whole voyage, or for such time as he or they shall agree to serve on board such ship or vessel; and also to express in the said agreement or contract, the voyage for which such seaman or mariner agreed to serve; and in case any master or commander of any such ship or vessel shall carry out of this state any seaman or mariner (except his apprentice or apprentices) upon any voyage to parts beyond the seas, without first entering into such agreement or contract as aforesaid, such master or commander shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds current money for every seaman or mariner carried out of this state, without entering into such agreement in writing as aforesaid.

Seamen to  
sign agree-  
ment, &c.

XXXIV. And be it enacted, That if any seaman or mariner shall enter or ship himself on board any ship or vessel above forty feet keel, on any intended voyage for parts out of this state, such seaman or mariner shall, and he is hereby obliged to sign such agreement or contract, within three days after he shall have entered himself on board such ship or vessel, in order to proceed on any voyage as aforesaid; which agreement or contract, after the signing thereof, shall be conclusive and binding on all parties, for and during the time so agreed or contracted for.

To forfeit  
wages, &c.

XXXV. And be it enacted, That in case any seaman or mariner, after agreeing or contracting as aforesaid, shall desert or refuse to proceed on the voyage on board any such ship or vessel, bound to any port or place out of this state, or that shall desert from the ship or vessel to which he shall belong, at any time during the term of his agreement, he shall forfeit to the owner or owners of such ship or vessel, the wages which shall be due to him or them at the time of his refusal or desertion from such ship or vessel, or obstinately refusing to proceed on such voyage.

Refusing to  
sail may be  
committed,  
&c.

XXXVI. And be it enacted, That in case any such seaman or mariner shall refuse to sail, desert, or absent himself, from any such ship or vessel, after he shall have entered into and signed such contract or agreement to proceed upon any voyage as aforesaid, upon application made to any judge or justice of the peace by the master or commander, owner or owners, or other person having charge of the said ship or vessel to which such seaman or mariner did belong, it shall and may be lawful for such judge or justice, and he is hereby required, to issue his warrant to apprehend such seaman or mariner; and in case such seaman or mariner shall

refuse