

A C T O F C O N G R E S S.

last of the said forty-two days: Provided always, that the judge of the district within which such commission issues, shall have power to enlarge the time so limited as aforesaid, for the purposes aforesaid, as he shall think fit, not exceeding fifty days, to be computed from the end of the said forty-two days, so as such order for enlarging the time be made at least six days before the expiration of said term.

Sec. 20. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the commissioners, or any other person or officers, by them to be appointed, by their warrant, under their hands and seals, to break open in the day-time the houses, chambers, shops, warehouses, doors, trunks, or chests, of the bankrupt, where any of his or her goods or estate, deeds, books of account or writings, shall be, and to take possession of the goods, money, and other estate, deeds, books of account or writings of such bankrupt.

Houses, &c. of the bankrupt may be broken open, &c.

Sec. 21. *And be it further enacted,* That if the bankrupt shall refuse to be examined, or to answer fully, or to subscribe his or her examination as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the commissioners to commit the offender to close imprisonment, until he or she shall conform him or herself; and if the said bankrupt shall submit to be examined, and upon his or her examination, it shall appear that he or she hath committed wilful or corrupt perjury, he or she may be indicted therefor, and being thereof convicted, shall suffer imprisonment for a term not less than two years, nor exceeding ten years.

Bankrupt may be committed, &c.

Sec. 22. *And be it further enacted,* That every bankrupt, having surrendered, shall, at all reasonable times before the expiration of the said forty-two days, as aforesaid, or of such further time as shall be allowed to finish his or her examination, be at liberty to inspect his or her books and writings, in the presence of some person to be appointed by the commissioners, and to bring with him or her, for his or her assistance, such persons as he or she shall think fit, not exceeding two at one time, and to make extracts and copies, to enable him or her to make a full discovery of his or her effects; and the said bankrupt shall be free from arrests in coming to surrender, and after having surrendered to the said commissioners, for the said forty-two days, or such farther time as shall be allowed for the finishing his or her examination; and in case such bankrupt shall be arrested for debt, or taken on any escape warrant or execution, coming to surrender, or after his surrender within the time before mentioned, then on producing such summons or notice under the hand of the commissioners, and giving the officer a copy thereof, he or she shall be discharged; and in case any officer shall afterwards detain such bankrupt, such officer shall forfeit to such bankrupt for his or her own use, ten dollars for every day he shall detain the bankrupt.

To have access to his books, &c.

Sec. 23. *And be it further enacted,* That every person who shall knowingly or wilfully receive or keep concealed any bankrupt, so as aforesaid summoned to appear, or who shall assist such bankrupt in concealing him or herself, or in absconding, shall suffer such imprisonment, not exceeding twelve months, or pay such fine to the United States, not exceeding one thousand dollars, as upon conviction thereof shall be adjudged.

Penalty on concealing a bankrupt.

Sec. 24. *And be it further enacted,* That the said commissioners shall have power to examine, upon oath or affirmation, the wife of any person lawfully declared a bankrupt, for the discovery of such part of his estate as may be concealed or disposed of by such wife, or by any other person; and the said wife shall incur such penalties for not appearing before the said commissioners, or refusing to be sworn or affirmed, or examined, and to subscribe her examination, or for not disclosing the truth, as by this act is provided against any other person in like cases.

Bankrupt's wife may be examined.

Sec. 25. *And be it further enacted,* That in case any person shall be committed by the commissioners for refusing to answer; or for not fully answering any question, or for any other cause, the commissioners shall, in their warrant, specify such question or other cause of commitment.

Cause of commitment to be expressed, &c.

Sec. 26. *And be it further enacted,* That if after the bankrupt shall have finished his or her final examination, any other person or persons shall voluntarily make discovery of any part of such bankrupt's estate, before unknown to the commissioners, such person or persons shall be entitled to five per cent. out of the effects so discovered, and such further reward as the commissioners shall think proper; and any trustee having notice of the bankruptcy, wilfully concealing the estate of any bankrupt, for the space of ten days after the bankrupt shall have finished his final examination, as aforesaid, shall forfeit double the value of the estate so concealed, for the benefit of the creditors.

Bounty for discovering bankrupt's estate.