

PRESIDENT BARCLAY
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH

B
LIBERIA

WITH

APPENDIX OF FORMS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER
OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1848.

President Barclay's Book

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CONSTITUTION

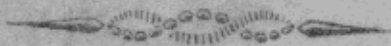
AND
LAWS

OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA,

INCLUDING AN
ABSTRACT OF LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND RULES,
WITH AN
APPENDIX OF FORMS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF
THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN TWO PARTS.



MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

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HILARY TEAGE,—PRINTER.

1843.

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PART FIRST.

Mr. Foster & Co.

London

1841

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CONSTITUTION,

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA.

The American Colonization Society, hereby grants to the colonies or settlements, on the Western Coast of Africa, under its care, the following

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Colonies or Settlements of Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, Millsburg, Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, and such other colonies hereafter established by this Society, or by Colonization Societies adopting the Constitution of the American Colonization Society, on the western coast of Africa, are hereby united into one government, under the same name and style of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Art. 2. All legislative power herein granted, shall be vested in a Governor and Council of Liberia, but all laws by them enacted, shall be subject to the revocation of the American Colonization Society.

Art. 3. The Council shall consist of representatives, to be elected by the people of the several colonies or settlements, and shall be appointed among them, according to a just ratio of representation. Until otherwise provided, Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, Millsburg, shall be entitled to six representatives: and Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, to four representatives, to be appointed among them by the Governor.

Art. 4. The representatives shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest, during their attendance at the session of the Council, and in going to, or returning from the same; and for any speech or debate therein they shall not be questioned in any other place.

Art. 5. Until otherwise provided by law, the Governor shall appoint, and publish the times, places, and manner of holding elections, and making returns thereof, and the time for the meeting of the Council.

Art. 6. The Governor shall preside at the deliberations of the Council, and shall have a veto on all their Acts; provided nevertheless that if two thirds of all the members elected to serve in the Council shall concur in passing a bill or resolution, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor the same when so passed shall become a law and have effect as such.

Art. 7. A Colonial Secretary shall be appointed by the Governor; and it shall be the duty of such colonial secretary to record in a book or books, all the official acts and proceedings of the Governor, of the Council and of the Governor and Council to secure and preserve the same carefully, and to transmit a copy of each of such acts or proceedings to the American Colonization Society, from time to time; provided, however, that such acts and proceedings be so transmitted at least once a year.

Art. 8. A Great Seal shall be provided for the Commonwealth of Liberia, whereby the official and public Acts of the Governor, shall be authenticated; and the custody of the said seal shall be committed to the colonial secretary.

Art. 9. The Governor and Council shall have power to provide a uniform system of military tactics and discipline; to provide for organization, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Commonwealth:

To declare war in self-defence :

To make rules concerning captures on land and water :

To make treaties with the several African tribes, and to prescribe rules for regulating the commerce between the Commonwealth of Liberia, and such tribes ; except that all treaties for the acquisition of lands shall be subject to the approval of the American Colonization Society.

To prescribe uniform rules of naturalization for all persons of color, and all persons now citizens of any part of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall continue to be so, and all colored persons, emigrating from the United States of America, or any district or territory thereof, with the approbation, or under the sanction of the American Colonization Society ; or any society auxiliary to the same, or of any state Colonization Society in the United States, which shall have adopted the constitution of the American Colonization Society, shall be entitled to all the privileges of citizens of Liberia ; except the same shall have been lost or forfeited by conviction of some crime.

EXECUTIVE POWER.

Art. 10. The Executive Power shall be vested in a Governor of Liberia, to be appointed by, and to hold his office during the pleasure of the American Colonization Society.

Art. 11. The Governor shall be Commander in chief of the army, of the navy, and of the militia of the Commonwealth ; he shall have power to call the militia, or any portion thereof, into actual service, whenever the public emergency shall require ; and he shall have the appointment of all military and naval officers, except the captains and subalterns of militia companies, who may be elected by their respective companies.

Art. 12. The land owned by the Society, and all other property belonging to the Society, and in the commonwealth, shall be under the exclusive control of the Governor and such agents as he may appoint under the direction of the Society.

Art. 13. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council shall appoint all officers whose appointment or election is not otherwise specially provided for in this constitution.

Art. 14. There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall be elected by the people—he shall exercise the office of Governor, in case of a vacancy in that office, occasioned by the Governor's death or resignation, or in case the Governor shall delegate to him the temporary authority of Governor, during the Governor's absence or sickness.

JUDICIAL POWER.

Art. 15. The judicial power of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Governor and Council may from time to time, ordain and establish. The Governor shall be, Ex-officio, Chief Justice of Liberia, and as such shall preside in the supreme court, which shall have only appellate jurisdiction. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts except the chief Justice, shall hold their office during good behaviour.

Art. 16. A code, or uniform system of civil and criminal laws shall be provided by the American Colonization Society for the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Art. 17. The present criminal laws in force in the several colonies, or settlements now forming the Commonwealth of Liberia, and such others as may from time to time be enacted, shall constitute the criminal code of the commonwealth. Such parts of the common law, as set forth in Blackstone's Commentaries, as

may be applicable to the situation of the people, except as changed by the laws now in force and such as may hereafter be enacted, shall be the civil code of law for the commonwealth.

Miscellaneous.

Art. 18. Until otherwise provided by law, the Commonwealth of Liberia shall be divided into two counties as follows:—

Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, and Millsburg shall constitute one county, under the name of Montserrado; Bassa Cove, Edina, Bexley, and Marshall, shall constitute the other county, under the name of the county of Grand Bassa.

Art. 19. There shall be no slavery in the commonwealth.

Art. 20. There shall be no dealing in slaves by any citizen of the commonwealth, either within or beyond the limits of the same.

Art. 21. Emigration shall not be prohibited.

Art. 22. The right of trial by Jury, and the right of petition shall be inviolate.

Art. 23. No person shall be debarred from prosecuting or defending any civil cause, for or against himself or herself before any tribunal in the commonwealth, by himself or herself or counsel.

Art. 24. Every male citizen of the age of 21 years, shall have the right of suffrage.

Art. 25. All elections shall be by ballot.

Art. 26. The military shall at all times, and in all cases, be in subjection to the civil power.

Art. 27. Agriculture, the mechanic arts and manufactures, shall be encouraged within the commonwealth; and commerce shall be promoted by such methods as shall tend to develop the agricultural resources of the commonwealth, advance the moral, social and political interest of the people, increase their strength, accelerate, firmly establish and secure their national independence.

Art. 28. The standards of weight, measure, and money, used and approved by the Government of the United States of America, are hereby adopted as the standards of weight, measure and money within the Commonwealth of Liberia. But the Governor and Council shall have the power to settle the value of the actual currency of the Commonwealth according to the metallic currency of the United States of America.

*Office of the American Colonization Society,
Washington, January, 14th, 1839.*

I hereby certify the above twenty eight articles to be a true copy of a Constitution of the Commonwealth of Liberia, adopted by the Board of Directors, of the American Colonization Society, on the fifth day of January in the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Nine.

PHILIP R. FENDALL,

Recording Secretary.

James Carey

John Carey

L A W S

OF LIBERIA.

An Act incorporating, bounding, and regulating Counties and Towns.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same:—*That this Commonwealth shall be divided into the two counties, of Monsterrado and Grand Bassa—separated from each other by the main branch of the Junk River.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That each county shall be divided into Townships of not more than eight miles square, until otherwise more accurately defined by law. *Provided*, that when there is not the space of eight miles between any two settlements—then half the distance whatever it may be, shall limit each township.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That the line of the Township of Edina, in Grand Bassa County, shall extend from the ocean shore along the middle of the St. John's river East of, and as far as the upper end of Factory Island, and from thence a North-west course so far as the jurisdiction of the Colony extends into the Little Bassa Country—thence to the ocean so as to include the settlement of Little Bassa—thence along the sea-beach to the place of beginning.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the line of the Township of Bassa Cove, shall extend from the ocean along the line of Edina Township, to the purchase made of Joe Harris, then East as far as may be deemed within the colonial jurisdiction, including the Grand Bassa territory comprehended within the bounds aforesaid, and Tabaconne on the sea shore.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Township of Bexley shall extend from the upper end of Factory Island, aforesaid, to the creek called Doiv, which divides our purchase from the Natives' possession of lands called Graccho, on the West side of the St. John's River, and run back a North-west course on both the upper and lower lines without any fixed limits other than those prescribed in the deed of purchase made of the natives.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Farm settlement on the East bank of the main branch of the Junk River, between the West bank of the Easternmost fork of the Junk, and the East bank of the said main branch of the Junk, shall constitute the corporate Township of Farmington.

*Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—*That the several Townships shall be bodies corporate, and as such—May sue and be sued—

Take and hold real and personal property for the benefit of the Township—

Make and fulfill contracts, and levy all such taxes as may be necessary for township purposes.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That the corporate powers of the several counties shall be exercised by three Commissioners appointed in each county,

whose duty it shall be to have the care of the buildings and other property of their respective counties—exercise a general supervision over prisons, poor houses and asylums—to examine into the state of roads and bridges—to determine what expenditures are needed for the erection, improvement and care of the same, and recommend to the Governor the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, out of the funds of said county:—And the Commissioners shall further have power whenever the necessities of the case require, to levy and collect such taxes as may be required towards paying the expenses of Government.

*Sec. 9. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Treasurer of the County shall receive and keep subject to the order of the Commissioners all the monies of the County—and make full quarterly report to them of his doings. He shall keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, subject at all times to the inspection of the Commissioners:—Shall keep separate accounts of monies received for the Commonwealth; 1st, For licenses; 2nd, for military fines; and 3rd, Commonwealth taxes, &c. &c. And for his services, he shall receive a per centum, not to exceed twenty on all monies received and paid by him—the rate per centum to be determined by the Commissioners.

*Sec. 10. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be a County Seal for each County of the Commonwealth, which shall be in the custody of the Clerk of the County, and it shall also be the seal of the County Courts.

*Sec. 11. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Governor and Council may appoint one Marshal and one Public Notary for the Colony: and in each county one Commonwealth Attorney, three Commissioners, one Chairman of the County Court, one Surveyor, one Judge of Superior Court, one Clerk of Court, one Register, one High Sheriff, one Coroner, one Treasurer, one Collector of Customs, four Overseers of the poor,—eight Constables in Montserrado and six in Grand Bassa; fourteen Justices of the Peace in Montserrado, and ten in Grand Bassa; three Assessors of the value of real estate in Montserrado and four in Grand Bassa; and deputy Port officers for Marshall. All which officers not otherwise ordered, shall hold their respective appointments during two years, unless removed on impeachment or conviction of some crime:—*Provided always* that the same officer may at the discretion of the Governor and Council, be reappointed to the same office.

*Sec. 12. And be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be a ferry established between Bassa Cove and Edina, and one to cross the Junk river at Marshall. The rates of toll at both places shall be fixed by the court of Quarter Sessions for Grand Bassa.

An Act regulating Towns and Villages.

*Section. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority of the same:—*That whenever there exists an excess of under brush or noxious weeds to the injury of persons living contiguous, injuring or inconveniencing them either in their ways, property or health—it shall be the duty of persons aggrieved thereby to make a representation of such nuisance to the Commissioners under the 8th section of "An Act incorporating, bounding and regulating counties and towns" whose duty it shall then be to publicly advertise, for thirty days, the owner or owners

thereof to clear away and remove the nuisance complained of—and should such nuisance still remain after such notice then said Commissioners shall advertise at two of the most public places in the township for the space of ten days, at the end of which time the work necessary for the removal of such nuisance, shall be let to the lowest bidder who shall be paid, for removing such nuisance, from any funds of the Township.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That the owners of property thus incumbered shall be allowed one year from the date of such incumbrance for the repayment of the sum expended in clearing the same—they paying an advance of 33 1-3 per cent on the sum so paid out. And should they fail or neglect to pay the same at or before the expiration of the year then after forty days public notice in one of the newspapers published in Monrovia the same shall be sold or such proportion thereof as shall be necessary to repay the township with the advance and costs chargeable thereon. *Provided always* that the property of minors having no guardian shall not be sold before the expiration of one year from the time of their arrival at the age of twenty one years.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That every holder of a building or town lot, shall put a sufficient fence around one half of the same, on the parts contiguous to his next neighbours. Colonists injured or liable to injury from his neglect to make such fence may apply to the Commissioners aforesaid who are to warn the delinquent to construct such fence within a reasonable and specified number of days. In case of neglect, the delinquent is to be again warned to complete the same within ten days thereafter. At the expiration of this last ten days, the original complainant is authorized to cause the fence to be made; submitting his bill for the same, to the Commissioners, who are to revise, and, if reasonable allow it. On this bill, any Magistrate applied to, is to issue execution, commanding the constable to levy on the delinquent's personal estate and raise the money for judgment and costs within thirty days.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be a town meeting, under the direction of the Magistrates, held in each township annually on the first Tuesday in October for the purpose of levying such taxes as may be necessary for township purposes. And further to appoint one Treasurer and three overseers of Police—the last to keep the roads and streets in order and guard the ingress of natives on the Sabbath day and the desecration of the same by colonists:—And for the proper ordering of the streets it shall be their duty, and the said overseers are authorized to summon all male inhabitants, from the age of sixteen to sixty years, by notifying them three days before each working day (not to exceed twelve working days in each year), to assemble and clear out the streets—persons thus notified shall either in person or by substitute apply themselves to the work aforesaid, or pay the sum of one dollar for each day they fail to comply with such requisition, recoverable with the costs accruing by summons before any magistrate, for the use of the township.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That should any of the officers appointed under and named in this act, fail of their prescribed duty, he or they shall be severally fined in a sum of not less than one dollar, nor more than five dollars recoverable for the use of the township on complaint before any Justice's Court.

*Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—*That if any individual or individuals be found drunk in the streets of any of the towns of this commonwealth he, she or they, shall be taken immediately and confined in goal until he, she, or they become sober.

An Act pertaining to Lands, and Reservations, Apportionments and improvements of the same.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That no persons shall own lands who do not reside in the colony and cultivate at least two acres, or carry on with the consent of the Governor some mechanical trade, and build "a house of sufficient size to accommodate all the family of the proprietor and built of stone, brick, or other substantial materials and workmanship, or if frame or logs weatherboarded and roofed with tile, slate or shingles."

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That all settlers, on their arrival shall draw town lots or plantations for which the Governor shall give them a certificate specifying their number and the time of drawing. If, within two years from that date two acres of land on the plantation shall have been brought under cultivation, the town lot cleared and enclosed and a substantial house built, the said certificates may be exchanged for title deeds in fee simple.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That every married man shall have for himself a town lot, or five acres of farm land, together with two more for his wife and one for each child that may be with him—*provided always* that no single family shall have more than ten acres.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That women not having husbands immigrating to this colony with permission and attached to no family besides their own shall receive each a town lot, or two acres of farm lands on their own account and one acre on account of each of their children—and unmarried men of the age of twenty one years, arriving in the colony from abroad, or attaining their majority while resident in the same, and having taken the oath of allegiance, shall be admitted to draw and hold a building lot, or five acres of farm lands on the same conditions as married men. In case of marriage afterwards such person is to draw on account of his family no additional lands, but shall be entitled to hold whatever his wife may have previously drawn in her own right or inherited from a former husband or other person provided she shall not have alienated such lands at the time of her marriage.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That no colonist shall deal with the natives of the country for lands. And all persons trespassing on lands not their own by cutting or removing timber or other property, are liable to exemplary damages.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That no bargain, transfer, sale, deed or lease of lands, by or with the grantee of lands for the same, before a legal and complete title in fee simple has been obtained, shall be valid or lawful. The imperfect right in lands acquired by the draft of the same, shall, in the event of the decease or expulsion of the drawer before the expiration of the probationary term, descend to his or her heirs in the colony.

*Sec. 7. And be it further Enacted:—*That every proprietor of farm lands is required to keep erected, at the angles of the same, posts 6 inches square at top, to stand 2 feet above ground and be planted 18 inches deep.

Penalty one dollar for each post not so erected to go to any person suing for the same.

Judiciary Act.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That all persons who may be appointed to act as Justices of the Peace, shall be sworn to do the duties of said office according to law and the prescribed forms. They shall be conservators of the public peace, and as such, have the power in the name of the Commonwealth, to command the seizure and arrest of any felon or disorderly person or persons, and to commit him or them to jail until legal action can be had in the premises:—And all precepts issued out of their courts, shall be signed by their names as Justices of the Peace. And further it shall be the duty of any Justice of the Peace in the absence of the Coroner, when an inquest is needed, to cause such inquest to be held, and make report thereof to the Governor within five days thereafter.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That on all Judgments rendered in a Justice's Court, when required by the defendant, and sufficient security first given, time for payment shall be allowed:—For all sums of twenty dollars five months;—sums under twenty and over fifteen, four months;—under fifteen and over ten, three months;—under ten and over five, two months;—under five and over two, one month, and all sums under two dollars, ten days. At the expiration of the time above allowed, execution may issue immediately against the defendant and his surety, by virtue of which, the officer may levy upon the goods and chattels first of the principal, and in case of deficiency, then of the surety to an amount sufficient to liquidate the debt, interest and costs:—And after ten days notice by public advertisement, shall proceed to sell the same to the highest bidder for cash, and should he by the sale make a sum exceeding the amount for which he claims, he shall forthwith pay the surplus over to the defendants. And all Judgments rendered in a Justice's Court, shall be recorded on the original precepts, and all judgments and all executions upon judgments not so rendered, shall be null and void.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be holden in each of the Counties of this Commonwealth a Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, to be constituted by a Chairman and two Justices of the Peace as associates. That for Monsterrado County to be opened on the first Monday in February, May, August and November, in each year, and may be continued from day to day, during the term of one week. And that for Grand Bassa County aforesaid, on the second Monday of the same months, and continued for a like term if necessary. The said Court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases of debt, for sums over twenty dollars; and be authorised to empanel jurors, to try and determine cases of petit larceny, and all infractions of the peace of the Commonwealth, except High Misdemeanor.—It shall have the care and management of the persons and estate of orphans not otherwise provided for.—It shall be a Court of Probate, and with its other records have a record of Wills, which may be proven in said Court.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Chairman of said Court shall not exercise the functions nor perform the duties of a Justice of the Peace—but his duties shall be confined exclusively to the Court of which he is Chairman; and for the services so rendered, he shall be allowed Twenty Dollars per annum, out of any fines and forfeitures collected in said Court.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That whenever a vacancy shall happen upon the bench of the County Court, by the absence of the Chairman, it shall be

the duty of the Magistrate present whose commission bears oldest date to fill the vacancy. He taking care to distinguish between his acts, and those of the regular incumbent, by adding to the signature of his name the words "Pro. Tem." Notwithstanding his official acts shall be equally valid within the jurisdiction of said Court.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of the County Court at their term next before the general election, to appoint Judges and Clerks for said election, and make record of all the names of persons so appointed for each town or district, and the Clerk shall issue notice to the persons so appointed to be served by the Sheriff, as in the case of other process issuing from the said Court.

*Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—*That the clerk shall keep a record of all matters and things ordered and transacted by the Court, in a book or books to be provided at the expense of the Government:—issue all leading processes, writs and subpoenas, signed with his own name as Clerk, made and directed according to law;—make record of all such issues and note the returns made by the officer to whom they were directed;—take minutes of the trial of all such cases, magistrates presiding, jurors empaneled, and the names of the jury who pass their judgment in each and every case:—Note the proof of wills or other conveyances of property in said Court, and deliver all such papers after being so noted, to the Register for recording;—and under the direction of the Court issue license to those to whom they are granted, and make record thereof as in other cases whereof a record is necessary to be kept.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That the duties of the Probate Court shall be distinct from that of the Court of Pleas and Sessions, though they are performed at the same term. It shall be the duty of the Chairman presiding at the said Probate Court to cause the probate of any will or testamentary paper that shall possess the features of one, or if contested he shall cause the will so contested to be brought before the Court of Common Pleas, that it may be submitted to a competent jury upon its merits and by them either rejected, set aside or quashed or unanimously approved; or if rejected, the same may be removed by appeal to other tribunal on petition made by any person aggrieved, according to the laws of this commonwealth which relate to appeals.

*Sec. 9. Be it further Enacted:—*The Register shall record all documents and instruments relating to the security and title of public or individual property—Government grants, patents, contracts, commissions and other papers, which are properly matter of record and to which the Commonwealth shall be a party. He shall receive papers of record from the County Clerk, register and file them in alphabetical order that they may at all times be in safe keeping in his office, and accessible to persons desiring to examine them. And every volume of records when full shall be delivered by him to the Colonial Secretary, for preservation among the archives of the colony.

*Sec. 10. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be holden in each of the Counties of Montserrado and Grand Bassa a Superior Court, which shall have original jurisdiction of all offences against the Commonwealth constituted penal by any law of said Commonwealth, presentments whereof shall be made by a Grand Jury on information given to them of existing cases, or of commitments made by Justices of the Peace; and shall have jurisdiction of all cases carried up by appeal from the court of pleas and sessions. There shall be a Judge

appointed for the said court in each of the said counties: who shall alone preside at each session of said court, to commence in Montserrado on the first Monday in April and October, and in Grand Bassa on the first Monday in May and November. The said Judges being governed by the same rules as courts of Equity in the United States, shall have jurisdiction of all causes in Equity shall have power to issue superseatas and writs of enquiry into all cases originating in Inferior Courts and may suspend their proceedings for want of matter, form or evidence so that the party aggrieved may have issue of his cause in the said Superior Court. And when the Judge is interested in any case that may be brought in his court, then and in that case, the Judge of the sister County shall preside, and shall be entitled to the fee allowed for that term. There shall be a clerk of the court in each county who shall receive his appointment from the Judge of said court and shall be directed in all issues to be made and other matters and things relating to the official transactions of the court, by the Judge thereof. He shall issue all writs directed to the Sheriff or in case of that office being vacant to the Coroner of the county, at least ten days before the return day of the term of said court to which they shall be returnable, sign them with his own name as clerk commanding the proceedings therein specified to be performed in the name of or before His Honour the Judge of said court: and he shall keep a book wherein he shall make record of all original issues and actions so made and begun as well as of all matters carried up by appeal to said court. He shall issue subpoenas for witnesses when required, and direct the same to the Sheriff or Deputy who shall execute without delay and make proper return thereof; and all such papers and documents so returned to his office, shall be filed in alphabetical order so as to be of easy access to those having occasion to examine them. And the said clerk shall also be qualified to act as Clerk and master in Equity in all matters and things pertaining to said court.

*Sec. 11. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be one Supreme Court for the Commonwealth, in which His Excellency the Governor shall preside, (he being Ex-officio Chief Justice of Liberia), to be held by him at such times, in such manner, and in such places as he shall from time to time direct, to it shall belong original jurisdiction in all maritime cases, and all cases of suits between citizens and aliens, and of all cases without or beyond the limits of the colony; and the returns on precepts issued therefrom, shall be made to such courts as they may be directed: and said Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, in all causes originating in the Superior Courts, or carried up by appeal from the Courts of Pleas and Sessions, or on cases originating in Justices Courts that have travelled up to it by regular course of appeals, and the judgments and decisions of the tribunal both between man and man and the commonwealth and its citizens, or aliens, in all manner of cases shall be final. The Colonial Secretary shall act as the Clerk in said Court, and shall keep such record of all matters and things connected with the business thereof, as shall seem meet and right to the Justice thereof to have done and made.

*Sec. 12. And be it further Enacted:—*That in addition to the above Courts, there shall be a Court of Monthly Session for the district of Sinoe. The Chairman of which court shall be clothed with powers similar to those vested in the Chairman of the County Court, and all matters of a legal nature above the jurisdiction of a Quarterly or County Court, within said district shall be laid in the Superior Court for the County of Grand Bassa.

An Act defining certain crimes, and relating to the punishment of crime.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That sedition, mutiny, insubordination or disobedience to the lawful authority, are high misdemeanors and cognizable by the Superior Court.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That grand larceny and all felonies may be punished in pursuance of judicial sentence, by imprisonment either in irons or not, or by a term of labor in chains on the public works.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That banishment from the Colony may take place on conviction for offences directly affecting the peace and good order of the same, and for obstinately refusing to acquiesce in the express decisions of the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society. The property of exiles shall pass to their next heirs resident in the Colony: And in all cases of banishment when the person has no heir in the Colony, the lands held by him shall revert to the Colony.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That theft in which the property stolen shall not be more than one dollar, is petit larceny—and quarrelling, riot, drunkenness, sabbath breaking, profanity and lewdness are infractions of the peace.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That no person who shall have been convicted of theft or any other misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment, shall be suffered to sit on a jury. *And further:—*That no person who shall be convicted of theft, burglary or robbery, shall ever after enjoy the elective franchise, or be eligible to any office in this Colony, or have a right to sit as juror or give evidence in any court of justice, unless specially restored to the rights and immunities of citizenship, by a public act of the Governor and Council, after having given sufficient evidence of repentance and reformation.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person or persons punished by fines in any of the courts, and put to public labor to satisfy said fine and costs, shall be allowed the sum of six dollars per month; *provided* if he be a *native* he shall be allowed three dollars per month, until said fine and costs be satisfied.

*Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—*That all persons convicted of any crime punishable by imprisonment and hard labor on the public works, may at the discretion of the court, be ordered to be hired out by the Sheriff of the County, publicly before the door of the court house, on the first Monday after the adjournment of the said court, to the highest bidder, for the term of his or her sentence, on the consideration the said prisoner shall not be allowed to go at large in the street, without being secured by a chain.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person suffering a prisoner, that may be in his or her possession for the time of such prisoner's serving, to go at large in the streets without being secured by a chain, of sufficient strength to keep the prisoner, he or she shall be subjected to a fine of not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, at the discretion of the court. And further it shall be the duty of sheriffs and constables to arrest all culprits that may be seen at large in the streets, and to enter prosecution against the person or persons in whose charge such prisoners were. And should any sheriff or constable neglect or refuse so to do, he or they shall be subjected to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

*Sec. 8. And be it further Enacted:—*That in every instance where a colonist shall seize upon the property of natives without legal process, under the presence of the said native or natives being indebted to him, it shall be considered an act of ROBBERY, and shall be punished with all the penalties attached to that crime.

An Act Concerning Bastardy.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That if any woman shall be delivered of a bastard child, that shall be or is likely to become chargeable to the public, and shall upon examination to be taken in writing upon oath, before any Justice of the Peace in the place, charge any person with being the father of the child, any Justice of the Peace in the place where the person charged is a resident or inhabitant, on application of any citizen of a place wherein such child be born, may issue a warrant to apprehend and bring the person so charged before him, or any other Justice, and such Justice shall commit him to jail, unless he shall enter into bonds with sufficient security in a sum of not less than fifty dollars, for his appearance at the Court of Quarter Sessions and abide the order thereof:—And if the court upon the circumstances, shall adjudge the person so charged to be the father, and that the child is likely to become chargeable to the public, they may provide for its maintenance, by charging the father with the payment of not less than one dollar per week, payable monthly into the hands of the Treasurer of the Colony, to continue while such child is likely to become chargeable to the public; and the father shall enter into recognizance with sufficient surety before the court, payable to the acting Governor and his successor in office, to perform such orders of the court. And if the father shall make default in the payment of such money for six months, or refuse to give such bond, the court shall give judgment and execution, and the sheriff shall proceed to the collection of all such sums as may be due from time to time by the father, his executors or administrators.

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That if any woman after having been summoned before any Justice of the Peace, should refuse to swear to the parentage of the child, and the child is likely to become chargeable to the public, the court may order the said woman to be hired out from time to time, as long as said child may be likely to become chargeable to the public.—*Nevertheless,* the mother of a bastard child may give good bonds with surety to be approved by the Governor and court of sessions, for the maintenance of the child.

An Act to prevent corruption and fraud in elections.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That any person or persons who shall be convicted of changing or of causing to be changed, by fraudulent or deceptive means any ticket or tickets in the ballot box, shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum of fifty dollars.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That any candidate for public office who shall either by himself or by others for him, give or cause to be given any

treat, entertainment or other consideration to any voter or voters for the purpose of influencing his or their vote or votes, shall on conviction before any tribunal competent to try the same, forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, and all persons concerned in violating this section, shall be subjected on conviction as aforesaid, to the like penalty and forfeiture of one hundred dollars.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person or persons entitled to vote in any of the elections who shall be convicted of receiving a present, credit, or other consideration for his or their vote or votes, in favour of any candidate, shall each and severally forfeit and pay for such offence the sum of five dollars, and said vote shall not be counted in making up the returns.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That no native African or Africans excepting such as may be brought here under the character of recaptured Africans, beyond the sea, shall be entitled to the elective franchise, unless he or they shall have remained in the colony at least three years immediately preceding the election, at which the privilege is claimed, and shall have during that continuous period exhibited an uniform course of civilized life. The standard of decision in such case shall be the solemn declaration of three credible and disinterested persons, (who shall have had an opportunity of noticing the conduct and life of the party or parties,) that the person or persons so claiming the right to vote, have during the three aforesaid consecutive years, abandoned all the forms, customs, and superstitions of heathenism, and that he or they so claiming to vote, has or have during the period aforesaid conformed to the forms, customs, and habits of civilized life.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That in all cases where two candidates shall have an equal number of votes, the Legislature at its next session after said election, shall determine the election by ballot.

*Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of the Sheriff or other person acting in his place, immediately on the closing of the Polls to count in the presence of the sworn Judges of the election the number of votes polled for each candidate. He shall write down said number opposite each candidate's name in fair and legible characters, sign it himself with the Judges of the election, to be forwarded immediately under seal to the Colonial Secretary, a copy of said statement authenticated as aforesaid shall be deposited in the office of the County Court.

And the Colonial Secretary shall, immediately on receiving the returns as aforesaid notify the citizens of the result of the election by posting the same up in some conspicuous place or otherwise publishing the same—and give persons elected a separate and official notice of their election.

An Act Punishing Official Misconduct.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That any person holding and exercising the office of Judge, in any court in this Commonwealth, who shall be guilty of shewing favor and partiality in judgment, or giving counsel in its tendency calculated to impede or hinder the right influence of

the law, in rendering justice to them who seek it, or of erecting, aiding, or abetting any factious or tumults among the people, shall on proof thereof before this tribunal be dismissed from office. But it shall be lawful at any time, for the Executive to suspend such officer, on proof of either of the above offences, until the Legislature can take cognizance of his case.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That if any Justice of the Peace, shall fail in attending to such complaints, as may be laid before him withholding a precept when required to be issued by him, or give counsel so as to turn aside the right of any person, or perversely render a wrong judgment in any case at issue before him, on proof thereof, made before His Excellency the Governor, he shall be dismissed from office, and be liable to such other penalties as may be attached to the crime for which he is discharged.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Clerks of the several Courts, shall observe with punctual exactness the rules and regulations prescribed by law, for all issues proceeding from their offices so that no writ be subjected to failure of service, and return of "too late to hand." Nor shall they neglect the duties of their office, so as by their neglect thereof or absence therefrom, to obstruct, frustrate or hinder by delay, any person in pursuit of justice, under the penalty of ten dollars for each case of issues not made;—twenty dollars for every case of neglect to subpoena or give notice of decrees or forms and rules ordered in any cases at issue in their several courts;—and fifty dollars for closing their offices, or absenting themselves so that access cannot at all times be thereunto had. Such fines to be levied by execution on the goods and chatties of said clerks, after judgment being had against them.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Sheriffs of the several counties shall be liable to amercement in the sum of fifty dollars for each and every case of failure to make due returns of any precepts, issued out of any of the courts and to them directed. And for all failures to make returns of monies to the courts issuing out executions to collect the same summarily, judgment shall be entered up against the said Sheriff, and his securities for the amount with charges of the cost accruing.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Coroner shall be subjected to the same liabilities and penalties as the Sheriff in all similar cases of delinquences in the discharge of the duties of his office.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of all Constables to present to the Court of Quarter Sessions, in a book provided for that purpose, an account of all precepts to them directed with an account of what action has been had on each, under the penalty of twenty dollars, and in default of the proper discharge of their duties they shall forfeit and pay for neglecting to serve a precept in an ordinary action of debt, the sum of ten dollars:—and in all cases of breach of the peace or criminal arrest, he shall be fined at the discretion of any tribunal having cognizance of such malversation in office, according to the magnitude of the offences.

*Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—*That any commissioned or non-commissioned officer, or other person who shall go beyond the limits of the town where he resides, and by force and arms or threats interrupt, interfere with or injure the natives, unless acting under the immediate authority of the Executive power, shall be amerced in the sum of not less than one hundred dollars, and in default of payment shall be imprisoned two years.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That any Clerk or Register who shall fail or neglect to note according to law, all wills and testaments and record inventories, accounts of sales, and accounts current of Executors, Administrators and Guardians, within 30 days after their probate or report, shall be liable to indictment in any court of record of the county, and on conviction fined at the discretion of the court.

*Sec. 9. And be it further Enacted:—*That all officers not named in the preceding sections, and for whose trial no laws have been made, may be prosecuted before the Court of Quarter Sessions, and on conviction of violation of duty—shall be liable to be displaced from office by the Executive, and subjected to such fines and penalties as such court may impose.

An act to provide against vacancies in certain public offices.

*Sec. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That whenever the office of Councillor, Sheriff, Collector or other office becomes vacant, it shall be the duty of the Acting Governor to fill such vacant office or offices, by an appointment of suitable person or persons under his hand, said appointment to be countersigned by the Colonial Secretary, who shall attach the commonwealth seal thereto. Nevertheless, said appointments shall expire at the next annual election or meeting of the appointing powers of such officers.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person or persons holding an office under this Government, and shall remove to any other colony or state unconnected with this to reside, or shall accept of any office of emolument from any such foreign state or colony, shall be considered vacating said office or offices; and said office or offices shall be filled by the Governor in the manner directed in the first section:—*Provided* this shall not be construed to apply to any person or persons that may be commissioned to any foreign colony on public business.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That in the event of the death, resignation, or other disability of both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, it shall be the duty of the Colonial Secretary immediately to summon the council, who shall meet and elect a person to fill said vacant office, until the next election, or until superceded by an appointment from the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society.

*Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—*That the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and all other officers of Government hereinafter named, be sworn into office. That the Governor or Lieutenant Governor administer the oath of office to the Secretary, and that the Secretary administer the oath of office to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Council, and record the date of their entering upon office upon the records of the council.

That the Secretary administer the oath of office to the clerks of the courts, and that the clerks of the courts swear all the members of the court. And the oath of office may be administered to a Justice of the Peace by any other Justice of the Peace.

An Act requiring Public Officers to renew their bonds.

*Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That all public officers whose duty it shall be to give bond and security, for the faithful performance of the services required of them, shall at the *First* term of the Court of Quarter Sessions occurring after the first day of January in each year, renew their bonds, and give if required increased security thereon, which bonds shall be filed and made matter of record in said court.

An Act regulating the fees of Public Officers.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That the following rates and fees shall be allowed to the officers named herein—and it shall be the duty of the Clerks of the Superior and County Courts, to keep a copy of this bill posted in their offices.

The Clerks of the County, Superior, and Supreme Courts,
shall receive

For every recognizance,	\$	20
" " Reference or continuance of cause,	"	25
" " Judgment,	"	50
" Docketing a case	"	1 00
" Every summons	"	25
" " Subpœna for each witness	"	25
" " Venire,	"	1 00
" " Execution or order of sale,	"	50
" " Bill of costs,	"	50
" Swearing jury,	"	25
" " Witness,	"	06 1-4
" Copy of record, every 90 words,	"	05
" " Will,	"	05
" Proving, recording and filing inventory, account of sales, or accounts current of Executors, Administrators or guardians, if the estate be under \$ 200,	"	50
It above \$ 200 and under \$ 1000,	"	75
" " \$ 1000,	"	1 00
" Noting probate of will, qualifying Executors, making certificates &c.	"	75
" Letters of administartion, swearing, taking bond &c.,	"	75
" Marriage license and bond,	"	75
" Every search out of court	"	10
" Proving and noting acknowledgement of conveyance of land or estates—certifying the same, and order of registration,	"	20
" Every commission to take testimony,	"	25

For every Guardain or other bond in court,	" " 50
" " Apprentice's indenture,	" " 50
" " Writ of error or appeal with transcript,	" 1 00
" " Certificate of minutes,	" " 10
" " Seal of office and certificate	" " 25
" Recording mark or brand,	" " 10
" Enrolling divisions of estates, each lot,	" " 10
" Every certificate of license,	" " 50
" Entering constable's return and levy,	" " 50
" " Appeals and entry of pleas or default,	" " 75
" Every guardain notice,	" " 50
" Attendance at court,	" 1 00

The Sheriff shall receive

For every arrest,	" " 75
" " Bail or replevin bond,	" " 25
" Service of subpoena with copy of petition,	" " 50
" " Of notice to arbitrators, referees or commissioners to take an account,	" " 25
" Every scirefacias,	" " 50
" Summoning guardain to renew bond,	" " 50
" Serving subpoena for one person,	" " 25
" Each other person named therein,	" " 05
" Every commitment	" " 25
" " Release,	" " 25
" Each criminal in jail per day,	" " 25
" Every notice to take deposition,	" " 25
" Summoning jurors to court,	" " 37 1-2
" Empanneling jury in each case,	" " 10
" Tales men, each juror,	" " 10
" Serving writ of Habeas corpus, per diem,	" 1 00
" Selling estate of intestates per centum,	" " 06 1-4
" Executing warrant of distress, or an execution against the body per centum,	" " 06 1-4
" All monies collected by virtue of levy, per centum, or paid by defendant to plaintiff while the execution is in the sheriff's hands,	" " 06 1-4
" Every writ of possession,	" 1 00
" " Levy by virtue of execution or attachment	" " 75
" Further trouble by moving goods to be assessed by court,	" 10 00
" Execution and decent burial of any criminal,	" 1 00
" Apprehending any criminal,	" 1 00
" Like services in equity, the like fees,	" " 10
" Travelling expenses per mile,	" " 10
And, in all cases where no fee is allowed the sheriff, he shall when engaged for the Commonwealth, receive per diem,	" 1 50

That the Coroner's fees shall be

For holding every inquest	" 2 00
" Interier deceased person, if paid by the estate	" 10 00
" " " " " " the county,	" 6 00
" Other services, like fees as the sheriff,	

Constables shall receive

For attending Quarterly and Superior Courts, per day,	" 1 00
" Serving warrant, summons, or subpoena,	" " 25
" Each additional copy	" " 05
" Execution and levy,	" " 50
" Attachment, levy and advertisement,	" " 25
" Every bail bond,	" " 10
" Serving notice on person failing to render account of taxables	" " 20
" Attending each trial in Justice's Court,	" " 25
" Monies collected per centum,	" " 05

Attorneys' fees shall be

For every suit in equity,	" 10 00
" " " " Superior or County Court,	" 5 00
" All appeals from Justice's Court,	" 2 00
And Commonwealth attorneys may receive	
For conviction of petit larceny or misdemeanor,	" 2 00
" " " Grand "	" 4 00

Clerks and Masters in Equity may receive,

For report on an answer	" " 25
On plea or demurrer and answer	" " 50
For an affidavit,	" " 10
" Copying report, every 90 words,	" " 20
" " of proceeding and exemplification	" " 20
" Taking bond,	" " 10
" Subpoena, writ or other process,	" 1 00
" Every commission	" " 50
" Drawing decree per sheet	" " 25
" Executing bill or answer,	" " 20
" Entering plea on demurer,	" " 20
" Recording deposition to perpetuate testimony,	" " 20
" Every dismissal,	" " 20
" " Search,	" " 10
" Taking security in leading process,	" " 20
" Recording bond,	" " 20
" Seal of Court, &c.,	" " 25

That the Register shall receive

For registering a grant or deed for one tract,	" " 50
" " Every additional tract,	" " 10
" " " other instrument of writing,	" " 50
" Every search,	" " 10

Magistrates shall receive

For issuing warrant, subpoena or execution,	" " 25
" Every additional name in subpoena	" " 05
" Swearing witness,	" " 05
" Recording judgment,	" " 25
" Taking written affidavit	" " 25

For sitting in County Court per day, " 1 00

Jurors shall receive

Petit Jurors for every case " 12 1-2
 Grand Jurors per day, " 50
 Coroner's Jury " 25
 Travelling expenses per mile " 10

Witness shall receive

Before Justice Court per case, " 12 1-2
 " All other courts, " 50
 For travelling expenses per mile, " 10

Surveyors shall receive per day, " 2 50
 For travelling expenses, " mile, " 10

Committees, Appraisers, Assessors and Overseers, shall receive per day, " 1 00
 For travelling expenses per mile, " 10

Judges and Clerks of election per day, " 1 00

Clerks of Courts Martial shall be paid out of fines accruing from the military, per day, " 1 00

Judges of the Superior Courts per term " 37 50
 For travelling expenses per mile, " 10

Notaries Public for every protest of bill of exchange, or promissory note or any other protest with seal of office, &c, all services, " 1 00

The Marshall for all services, shall receive per day, " 3 00

The Collector of Customs for Grand Bassa County, on all monies received and paid into the Treasurer's hands shall receive a per centum, " 12

The Collector for Monsterrado County, " " " 10

The Treasurer in each county " " " 04

In all Commonwealth cases—Clerks, Sheriffs, Constables and Magistrates shall be entitled to half the amount of fees allowed in civil suits, to be paid by the Commonwealth, or the defendant as the prosecution may eventuate.

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That in all suits hereafter tried and disposed of either in the County or Superior Courts, the party convicted or failing in the action, shall pay a tax fee of one dollar—which shall be collected by the Clerk, and paid over to the County Treasurer within thirty days after the same shall have been received by him.

An Act Regulating Commerce and Revenue.

Section. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That the lawful Commerce of all nations, transacting lawfully their business, and observing the rules and regulations laid down for their government, shall be on equal footing in these colonies and entitled alike to all the advantages thereof. But no trading establishment whatever or establishments, for the purposes of trade shall be formed on the coast within the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth, by any foreigner under the penalty of the seizure of his person and the confiscation of his goods. Nor shall any foreign vessel traffic within the limits of the same except at ports of entry, under the penalties set forth in the regulations of such port of entry.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That no foreigner shall have the privilege of trading with another foreigner, citizen, or native within the limits of the colony, or at ports of entry, without the intervention of a Commission Merchant of the Colony—excepting, nevertheless such articles of provision and tackling as may be wanted for ship's use, which may be purchased under the inspection of the Collector or his Deputy, so as to secure the duties. Any violation of the above, shall be punished by fine for the first offence, of one hundred dollars, and the second offence, double the amount—one half to go to the informer.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—That no vessel not immediately owned by the citizens of the colony, shall be allowed to anchor in any of the ports or harbors of the colony, without paying the regular anchorage and light duties:—And the masters of all vessels requiring the protection of Fort Norris Battery, against any piratical or suspected vessel actually in sight, or believed to be hovering in the offing—also all masters of vessels through whose fault it shall become necessary to man the battery for their detention—shall pay one dollar an hour for every hour the battery shall be actually manned for such detention or defence.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—That all foreign vessels shall be compelled either to deposit their papers in the office of the Collector, or, if that be deemed unsafe, give bond or deposit with him property, to the amount of one hundred dollars as security for the payment of his dues:—And further, that all vessels before sailing from these colonies, shall receive a clearance from the Collector of Customs, the master or owner thereof paying for the same, the sum of twenty-five cents—which clearance shall entitle the master of any foreign vessel to retake his papers or bond or property deposited as before required.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—That no Captain or Supercargo of any vessel, shall take away any missionary, native, citizen, or other resident of this Colony, without a passport to be granted by the Secretary, under the penalty for each and every offence of one hundred dollars. *Provided always* this shall not apply to vessels carrying persons to any of the American settlements.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—That it shall not be lawful for the master or other person to land any goods from on board any boat or vessel without a permit, special or general; and any permit shall be valid only so long as the vessel shall remain in harbor—any vessel having left the harbor shall procure a permit to land any portion of her cargo on her return, and all articles

or goods of any kind landed without such permit, shall be held liable to seizure.

Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—That all vessels, boats and people engaged in, or in any wise aiding or abetting the Slave Trade, are hereby forever forbidden to have any intercourse with our water, or our shores;—and should they by distress be driven to anchor in our waters or land on our shores, the circumstances of their case are immediately to be reported to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or some person appointed to hear and decide on the merits of the case, and any violation of this law shall subject them to seizure and imprisonment of themselves, and confiscation and sale of their effects &c.

Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—That no citizen of this Commonwealth, or any foreigner within the jurisdiction of the same, shall be permitted to act as agent or attorney for any person or persons engaged in the Slave Trade, under a penalty of being six months bound to hard labor in irons:—And further that no person resident within the jurisdiction of this Commonwealth, shall enter into the employ or service of any slave dealer, or of any person in the remotest degree connected with him or them, under the penalty of indictment and fine of fifty dollars; and any person belonging to these colonies being found on board any slave boat or vessel, or in the neighborhood of any slave dealing establishment, shall be deemed accessory to their crime, and suffer the penalty as above—but should any person so implicated show that he or she was by accident or distress thrown into that situation, being satisfied of such fact, His Excellency the Governor may admit the plea in pardon or extenuation, but should he or she fail to make good such representation, he or she shall suffer the penalty last above named.

Sec. 9. Be it further Enacted:—That all vessels hailing from ports, and sailing under the flag of this Colony, are hereby prohibited from any and every species of intercourse with slavers at sea or elsewhere, and forbidden to trade or hold any negotiation with them, under the penalty of the seizure and condemnation of their vessel, and forfeiture of all the articles or the value of them so traded for, and no such vessel above mentioned shall purchase *at sea* from any vessel any goods, wares, or merchandize and land them at any port, or any factory they may be licenced to keep within this Commonwealth, without accounting to the nearest port officer for the amount of duties chargeable on said purchase, and paying the legal tariff duties imposed on the articles, under the penalty hereinafter affixed to smuggling in these colonies.

Sec. 10. Be it further Enacted:—That the owners of all sailing crafts belonging to the colony, shall not sail the same outside of the rivers, without providing them with a colonial flag or broad pennant, and a sailing license or Register from under the hand and seal of the Governor, under penalty of paying one dollar a ton for every ton, such craft may measure, for each unlawful trip—and all such vessels so sailing from any port in these colonies, and trading coastwise under the protection of this government, shall pay a Tax of fifty cents per ton per annum, which Tax shall be paid by the master or owner before the license above named shall be granted.

Sec. 11. Be it further Enacted:—That the master or owner of any vessel sailing under the flag of the colony, and registered in said colony shall within twenty-four hours after the arrival of such vessel, within any port of entry in the colony, present to the Port Officer, or Collector of Customs of said port, a correct list or manifest of the cargo on board, and receive from him a permit to land the same, without which it shall not be lawful to break bulk, or discharge

any part of the cargo of said vessel:—*And further*, That if any master or owner of any such vessel arriving as aforesaid—shall proceed to land or discharge any part or portion of his cargo without first having complied with the above requisitions, he shall for every such offence, on conviction thereof, before the Court of Quarter Sessions, be fined in a sum not exceeding forty dollars nor less than twenty:—and all goods or merchandize thus landed, on which there is a revenue duty to be collected—shall be seized and disposed of by the Collector at public sale—the proceeds of which shall go to the use of the commonwealth, reserving to the Collector or any person making such seizure, a commission of 50 per cent for his services.

Sec. 12. Be it further Enacted:—That it shall be the duty of the Collector to board every vessel anchoring in our ports, before such vessel has had any communication with the shore, and on failure thereof shall pay the sum of ten dollars.—It shall be his duty to furnish the master, or commander of said vessel with a copy of the port regulations:—for every neglect whereof he shall pay the sum of five dollars.—He shall suffer no vessel to unlade any part of her cargo without a permit, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars.—He shall also inspect all boats coming from foreign vessels or otherwise, and all goods landed from such boats or vessels which are not enumerated in a permit, shall be seized. He shall keep in a book to be provided for that purpose, an accurate account of all the arrivals and departures of vessels, and of all passengers coming to or going from these ports, and the exports, and imports shipped away or received. It shall also be his duty to enforce the collection of duties before the departure of any vessel from which any sums may be claimed, and for every neglect he shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars.—He shall make a full return of all the matters and things connected with his office at the close of each quarter, and pay over to the Treasurer, all and whatever monies may have come into his hands—and in case of failing to make a report, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars. And on failing to pay over the amount collected, the sum of one hundred dollars.

Sec. 13. Be it further Enacted:—That on all ardent spirits, wines and cordials landed in any part of the colony, there shall be collected a duty of twenty-five cents per gallon—and all such articles shall be landed under the immediate observation of the Collector, and by him be gauged or the quantity otherwise ascertained on the spot, and the amount of duties thereon be paid before it is removed from the place of landing, and on failure in either of these particulars the articles aforesaid shall be forfeited to the commonwealth. And there shall be collected a duty of five per cent *advalorem* upon all goods, wares and merchandize, (other than those above enumerated) brought into the colony, excepting goods and merchandize brought in by the missionaries for their *private* use. The *advalorem* duty in all direct importations shall be assessed on the cost of goods—but in the sale of transient traders, the commission merchant's account shall be assumed as the *valorem*, and the duties computed according to it.

Sec. 14. Be it further Enacted:—That each commission merchant, shall pay a Tax of twenty-five dollars per annum; and each retailer shall pay twelve dollars per annum—and it shall not be lawful for any colonist, or other person within the colony, to sell or barter any goods, merchandize, or vendible property, or transact commercial business for any foreign importer, merchant, master, supercargo or owner, on commission without first having obtained a commission merchants license, nor shall any licensed commission

merchant, as such, either by himself or another, deal, transact or barter, other than in the legal wholesale way—nor shall any commission merchant as such sell or barter any goods wholly or in part, the property of any foreigner, to or with the native inhabitants within the limits of the colony. Nor shall any commission merchant hold goods, wares or merchandize received from foreigners, at other than the rates or prices thereon affixed by the consignor—nor shall he advance upon the prices so affixed without written instructions to that effect, under a penalty of indictment and a fine of one hundred dollars, for every offence under this section:—one half to the use of the commonwealth, the other half to the informer.

*Sec. 15. And be it further Enacted:—*That no citizen or alien resident in this Colony, shall trade or traffic with the natives of this country out of the bounds of the town wherein he resides, under the penalty of confiscation of every and all the articles of trade, produce, or cattle employed in the transaction. For every second offence he shall be find in addition in the sum of one hundred dollars and costs—and if he be unable to pay he shall be sentenced to hard labor six months on the public works. And for any resistance to the infliction in this section he shall be liable to indictment for misdemeanor and punished by confinement and hard labor on the public works six months. Provided always that the citizens of this commonwealth shall be allowed to establish factories on the sea board any where within the jurisdiction of this colony by paying an annual license of twenty-five dollars.

*Sec. 16. Be it further Enacted:—*That no person or persons whatsoever, shall trade or traffic by buying or selling merchandise for gain within the colony, except those who have obtained a license as by law required. And further that all trade shall be carried on and calculations made in the currency of the colony, for every transgression of this last clause the offender shall be fined in the sum of one dollar with costs at the suit of the Commonwealth before any Justice of the Peace.

*Sec. 17. Be it further Enacted:—*That no person shall sell ardent spirits, wines, or cordials without having first obtained a special license for which he shall pay the sum of twenty five dollars, said license to be renewed on the 1st January in each year. And further that the penalty for selling ardent spirits without license in this commonwealth shall be one hundred dollars to be recovered by action of misdemeanor in any court of this commonwealth having competent jurisdiction, one half to the use of the informer and the other half to the use of the commonwealth.

*Sec. 18. Be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of those who are, or may hereafter be engaged in the sale or trade of spirituous liquors, to have their shops distinguished by a sign board on which the name or names of the owners shall be printed in large capitals, underneath which their special business shall be designated, thus, "A. B. SELLS RUM" and on failing thus to distinguish himself or themselves, he or they shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction, to be collected as often as the offender is admonished by any officer of government, and fails to comply with the above requisition.

*Sec. 19. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person wishing to carry on the business of Auctioneer shall pay annually to the commonwealth the sum

of five dollars;—and further that there shall be paid on all auction sales the sum of one and a half per centum to be called auction duty,—said duty shall be collected quarterly by the sheriff or his deputy and deposited by him in the treasury, on which he shall be allowed the legal per centage for monies collected by him:—and for the safe collection of said duty, shall be empowered to use the means allowed for the collection of other monies.—Nevertheless the tax above shall not be construed to extend to the sales of estates made by executors or administrators.

*Sec. 20. Be it further Enacted:—*That the method of obtaining all licenses, for which payment is made to the commonwealth, shall be by presenting to the County Court during its session the Treasurer's receipt, whereupon the court shall order the clerk to grant the license applied and paid for: And all licenses shall be granted for one year to expire on the 31st December. *Provided* should any person apply for license or licenses after the commencement of the fiscal year, which is understood to commence the first day of January—said person or persons so applying shall be compelled to pay only in a just ratio of the unexpired term of one year—and provided further that any and all persons may obtain license to trade in one or as many places as he or they may choose, but he or they shall have no more than one place of trade in each township or only so many as he or they shall have received license to keep, under the penalty attached to trading without license.

*Sec. 21. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person accused of receiving goods in the jurisdiction of this colony, on which tariff duties have not been paid, or in other words of *smuggling* into these colonies any goods or articles chargeable with duties, shall be subjected to have the said articles seized by the collector, and on conviction thereof the same shall be sold for the benefit of the commonwealth, and he shall also pay four fold the value of the articles so smuggled, or be committed to the common jail, there to be kept in close confinement till the said penalty with all costs of collection shall be paid.

*Sec. 22. Be it further Enacted:—*That any person trading or bartering within this commonwealth with the natives or others, in goods, wares, or merchandize on which the regular duties have not been paid, shall on conviction, forfeit and pay the amount of the goods so sold or bartered contrary to law.

*Sec. 23. Be it further Enacted:—*That any goods, wares and merchandize, which may be landed according to the requirements of this law from foreign vessels for sale, and shall remain unsold, the captain, supercargo or other officer of such foreign vessel, shall upon obtaining a permit from the Collector of Customs, be allowed to reship such goods, wares, and merchandize on board such foreign vessel from which they were landed free of import duty, as respects all but ardent spirits, wines, and cordials.—*Provided* if such goods remain more than thirty days the goods shall not be entitled to the aforesaid exemption.

*Sec. 24. Be it further Enacted:—*That all goods, wares, and merchandize imported into this colony shall be entitled to draw back when exported:—subject, however, to the following provisions:—Said goods, wares, and merchandize must be landed in complete and unbroken packages, and reshipped in the same unbroken packages;—must be exported in the same vessel

in which they were imported, and in nine months from the date of landing;—each package shall be marked at the time of landing, and the name of the vessel from which it was landed:—for which the Collector shall receive a compensation of three cents on each package from the owner of said goods. The Captain or Supercargo of the vessel in which said goods may be imported, or the owner of said goods with his factor shall pay the amount of duties on said goods, wares, or merchandize at the time they are landed; or shall execute a bond to the Collector for said duties payable in nine months or whenever said goods are reshipped,—if reshipped in less than nine months; and said goods shall not be considered as reshipped unless they are reshipped under the immediate inspection of the collector or his deputy—The Collector shall keep a true and faithful account of said goods with the marks and the date of landing: and in the event of his resignation shall deliver the account to his successor:—*Provided always* that no drawback on ardent spirits, wines, and cordials, shall in any case be allowed.

*Sec. 25. Be it further Enacted:—*That all fines and forfeitures upon civil officers by virtue of this or any other act, when not otherwise specially provided for, shall be collected under the direction of the Executive or other persons appointed by him within twenty days, by a summary process or distress warrant against the person so amerced—and all monies due the commonwealth from other persons, shall be collected by the Sheriff within forty days, and if not then paid, he shall proceed to levy upon and sell as much of the delinquent's property as will satisfy the demand.

*Sec. 26. Be it further Enacted:—*That in all cases where a Sheriff or other person charged with the collection of money due the commonwealth, shall fail in accomplishing the same, execution shall be issued against him or them, and his or their securities immediately; and all officers neglecting or refusing to pay over monies collected, on account of the commonwealth, shall be subjected to a summary process, for the recovery of double the amount claimed at their hands, to be levied on any goods and chattles in their possession.

*Sec. 27. Be it further Enacted:—*That nothing in the preceeding sections, shall prevent any laborer or mechanic from being permitted to exchange the products of his labor—or any farmer, the products of his farm, for articles necessary for the consumption of his family, and also for camwood and ivory, *provided always* such exchanges shall be made at the house of the colonist so making them, or with a merchant at his store.

*Sec. 28. And be it further Enacted:—*That all and any further regulations necessarily growing out of our maritime regulations, shall be subjected to the control of the Chief Executive of this Commonwealth.

An Act to Regulate proceedings in cases of Wreck &c.

*Section 1 Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That whenever boats, goods or property of any kind, having been wrecked or lost, and found, it shall be the duty of the finder, to deliver the same into the custody of the Collector or his Deputy, who shall give notice by public advertisement thereof, for ten days in the neighborhood of those supposed to be concerned, after which

time, unless application be sooner made on the part of the owner or owners of the said property, the Collector shall proceed to sell the same to the highest bidder, and after deducting his commission with the salvage hereinafter specified, shall pay over the balance into the Treasury of this Commonwealth. But should an owner appear to claim the said property, he shall be required to pay a salvage of one fourth the value of the articles so found, to be paid or secured to the finder.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That whenever the Collector as aforesaid, and the owner of wrecked or lost property, shall disagree as to the value to be fixed on any article under the circumstances above mentioned, then it shall be the duty of the parties to have recourse to arbitration according to the rules and customs for the government of such proceedings.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That upon the decision of the arbitration aforesaid, should the owner or owners be unwilling or fail to secure to those concerned, a ratable proportion of the value so fixed, then he the said Collector, shall proceed to sell the same for ready money to the highest bidder, and after deducting for himself the usual commission of his office, he shall then pay over to the parties concerned, such proportion as shall accrue on the products of the sale.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That should any person finding or picking up any wrecked or drifted property, fail or refuse to submit to the proceedings above prescribed, his claim or claims as finder or any other person for him, shall be abrogated—and he shall further be liable to be proceeded against as in cases of felony, and upon conviction shall suffer the same penalties as for any other act of larceny according to the magnitude of the offence.

*Sec. 5. And be it further Enacted:—*That should the Collector, or his Deputies fail to fulfil the duties resting upon him in making the proper disposal of effects so coming into his hands, himself or his securities shall pay to the parties aggrieved, double the value of such property.

An Act relating to Treaties.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That in all cases of treaties to be made, of which this Government shall be a party, the Governor may appoint Commissioners, who may be clothed with the necessary power, and held bound to depart in no wise from their instructions.—And all treaties, whereof the Commonwealth is one of the contracting parties, shall, from the date of their publication, become laws.—And offenders against their provisions shall be punished in pursuance of judicial sentence.

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That in all treaties and negotiations with the surrounding Head-men or Chiefs of native tribes for land, the settling of questions of boundary, or for the extension of territory, a fair and complete understanding shall be had and obtained, and proper instruments of writing shall be had and made, fully expressing the whole subject matter of agreement or arrangement made and entered into—the full amount paid as the consideration of any bargain, or for any purchase made, together with the real signatures of all concerned in the transaction:—And no Chiefs or Head-men, the

proprietors of any lands, shall by either force or fraud, be brought to accede to measures—nor shall any construction by implication be given to words, or actions be employed to deprive them of their rights in any respect, and more especially with regard to lands, when they signify an unwillingness to deal in the way of pacific negotiation.

An Act relating to Expatriation.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That any person or persons citizens of this Commonwealth, who shall remove to another Government or Colony and take the oath of allegiance, shall not be entitled to the privileges of citizens in this—and should such persons again return, they shall not be entitled to the elective franchise, until they have again taken the oath of allegiance to this government and have remained in the colony at least twelve months thereafter,

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That should any person or persons who had left the Colony, again return and refuse to take the oath of allegiance, declaring that he or they had not become citizens of any other Government, and there should be any doubt respecting the fact, said person or persons shall be questioned as to the truth of the same before some Justice of the Peace, and his or their answer in the negative shall be recorded by the Register:—And should it be afterwards found that he or they had taken an oath of allegiance to any foreign Government or Colony, all his or their real property in the Commonwealth shall be confiscated, and he or they debared forever from citizenship therein.

An Act regulating the residence of Native Africans within the Colony.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That all Native Africans who may become residents, or remain within the corporate bounds of the several counties of this Commonwealth—whether adults or minors, shall be compelled to wear clothes under the penalty of being fined in a sum not exceeding five dollars, nor less than one dollar.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That no native youth under the age of eighteen years shall be allowed to dwell in the families of colonists, without being bound for a specified term of years, according to the rules prescribed in an Act concerning apprentices.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That all male natives from the age of 16 years to 60, resident within the several townships, shall be compelled to work the same number of days directed by law for the citizens; they being ordered out at the discretion of the Commissioners.

*Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—*That Liberated Africans incorporated in the Colony, and who shall be deemed capable of managing, shall receive small grants of land.

An Act Pertaining to Attorneys.

*Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That no person shall be allowed to plead implead or prosecute as an attorney before any of our courts but such as shall be regularly licensed, by the courts: and such license may at any time be withdrawn, where any indecorous language is used by the person towards either the court or jury.

The attorney appointed to manage public prosecutions shall maintain the authority of the laws against all who shall criminally violate them.

That fifteen dollars be paid by each and every attorney for his license, into the public treasury, and fifty cents to the Clerk of the Court for drawing said license, and such license shall be signed by the Judge of the Court and recorded by the Register.

An Act legalizing marriages and legitimating illegitimate children.

*Sec. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That no marriage of colonists or others resident or being in the colony, (natives of the country excepted) shall be lawful without a license previously had from the Clerk of the County Court—and those persons requiring license shall give bond and security in the sum of two hundred dollars that there is no illegal barrier to their entering into the proposed connexion. The parties to any marriage contrary to this section shall be expelled the colony and the person performing the marriage ceremony for unlicensed parties shall be fined discretionary by the Court of Sessions.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of all authorized Ministers of the Gospel, Judges and Justices of the Peace who shall hereafter join together any persons in bonds of matrimony, to make a return, of the marriage license, certifying thereon the intermarriage of the parties and the date of the solemnization thereof, to the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, who shall enter the same in a book kept for that purpose, and for such entry shall be entitled to receive ten cents which shall be paid when such license is granted—and the register of such marriage or a certified copy thereof shall be admitted as evidence of such marriage in any of the courts of this Commonwealth.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That all persons who at the time of their arrival in this Commonwealth, shall be living and cohabiting together as husband and wife, shall previous to their admission to the rights and privileges of citizens, be cited by the Clerk of the Court aforesaid to appear and in his presence and the presence of each other, be required solemnly to acknowledge and declare themselves to be bounden and lawful man and wife—and said acknowledgement it shall be the duty of the clerk to record, to remain thereafter full and sufficient evidence of the marriage of the parties therein named.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That a certificate of a marriage solemnized by a Minister or other person, according to the laws and usage of

the state or country from whence the person or persons may have come, shall in all cases be deemed sufficient evidence of the marriage of the parties named therein.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—That no persons who shall be living and cohabiting together in manner aforesaid, and refusing or neglecting to comply with the requisitions of the 2nd or 3d sections of this Act, shall be entitled to draw or hold lands in the colony or enjoy and exercise any of the rights and privileges of citizens, until or unless, they be solemnized in marriage according to the forms and customs of this Commonwealth.

Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—That in all cases when any person or persons may have an illegitimate child or children, and desires to make such child or children legitimate, he or they shall make application to the Court of Probate, and said Court shall order their Clerk to make a record of said application, stating the day and date, the names of the parties making such application and the name of the child or children so legitimated—and the said Clerk shall give the parties a certified copy of said record which shall in all cases be deemed full and sufficient evidence of the legitimacy of such child or children.

An Act requiring the Register of Births and Deaths.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That there be a Town Clerk appointed annually in each town, whose business it shall be to keep a record of the births and deaths of all persons occurring therein, specifying the day of each birth and death, and the names of the persons if known.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That parents shall give notice to the clerk of their town, of the births and deaths of their children:—And every household shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his or her house:—The oldest person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred:—And the Sexton of the burial ground in each town shall give notice of the interment of every person and the names of the persons so interred.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—That the Town Clerk shall make semiannual reports to the Probate Court:—And the Clerk of the Court of Probate and the Town Clerk shall receive each the sum of five cents for every birth or death that they may record, which sum shall be paid out of the County funds.

Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—That the Probate Clerk shall make annual returns of all such matters and things as come within the view of this Act, to the Colonial Secretary.

An Act concerning the Census.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That whenever he may deem it necessary, His Excellency the Governor, shall appoint one person in each township to take the census of the inhabitants thereof:—And that per-

sons so appointed shall forthwith render a just and true account and return, shewing

- 1st. The name of each head of a family, male or female ;
- 2nd. The ages and number in each family, so as to shew,
- 3rd. All males over 65 years of age ;
- 4th. All females of that age ;
- 5th. All males over 50 and under 65 ;
- 6th. All females of same age ;
- 7th. All males over 21 and under 50 ;
- 8th. All females of same age ;
- 9th. All males between 16 and 21 ;
- 10th. All females of same age ;
- 11th. All males over 12 and under 16 ;
- 12th. All females of same age ;
- 13th. All males over 5 and under 12 ;
- 14th. All females of same age ;
- 15th. All males over 1 and under 5 ;
- 16th. All females of same age ;
- 17th. All males under one year ;
- 18th. All females of same age ;
- 19th. How many of all ages have been born in the Colony ;
- 20th. All idiots, lunatics and decrepit persons ;
- 21st. The number of horses, jacks, mules, or working oxen, belonging to each and every family—the number of spinning wheels—all or any kind of produce they raise, or manufacture for market—and the number of acres of land cultivated by each and every citizen.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the pay allowed shall be according to the numbers returned, at the rate of one dollar for every hundred souls.

And the representation in the Legislative Council shall be in a just ratio of the population of each county in the Commonwealth.

An Act to Regulate the Militia.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That every able bodied male citizen of this Commonwealth, between the ages of 16 and 50, except those hereinafter enumerated, shall be enrolled in the Militia:—And that every male citizen between the ages aforesaid, shall be considered “able bodied,” unless he shall produce to the Commander of the Regiment a certificate from a Physician of his inability.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the following named persons shall be exempted from doing military duty, except in cases of invasion or insurrection, or when the public exigency shall demand their services.

Judges of the Superior Courts, Members of the Legislative Council, and Ministers of the Gospel, holding a pastoral charge;—and persons regularly employed on board the vessels of this Colony, as seamen or supercargoes:—And whether belonging to volunteer or militia companies, they shall be exempted when actually engaged in their calling, or about to go to sea on the days of muster, except such as belong to volunteer companies:—*Provided that*

persons so claiming to be exempted shall register their names in the office of the Clerk of the County Court : and on proof being furnished to the Commander of the militia, that any person or persons so registered, shall have been unemployed in his or their calling for three months at any one time, he or they shall be enrolled and compelled to do military duty, the registration of his or their names as aforesaid, notwithstanding.—*And provided further*, that every seaman and supercargo so exempted, shall pay monthly into the hands of the County Treasurer, of the County in which the port from which he hails is situated, the sum of twenty-five cents ;—to be accounted for by the Treasurer, and applied as the Legislature may direct.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted :—It shall be the duty of the Commander-in-chief to organize the Militia of this Commonwealth into one Brigade, to consist at present of two Regiments, and as soon as may be complete the organization, by filling up the Brigade ;—*Provided*, however, that it shall not ever embrace more than four Regiments, which shall be as equal in point of numbers as circumstances will allow :—*And provided* that no new Regiment shall be formed with less than six companies of forty men each.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted :—There shall be one Brigadier General, with one aid, whose rank shall be that of Captain ; one Brigade Inspector, with the rank of Major ; and one Quarter Master with the rank of Captain.

To each Regiment there shall be one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, one Surgeon with the rank of Lieutenant, and two Surgeon's mates with the rank of Ensigns :—one Adjutant and one Quarter Master with the rank of 1st. Lieutenant :—one Sergeant Major, one Quarter Master Sergeant, and one Drum Major with the rank of first Sergeant.

And to every Company there shall be one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Sergeants, four Corporals, and two Musicians.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted :—That the Commander-in-Chief, shall grant a charter to any body of men, as a volunteer company, when he shall have a roll of forty rank and file presented to him for that purpose, which volunteer company, and such as are now chartered, shall have the benefit of the fines accruing from their company parades. The charter of every such volunteer company, shall specify the duty of its members, to arm and equip themselves fully, as hereinafter provided, and to hold themselves ready at all times when notified, for actual service as volunteers.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted :—That every private and non-commissioned officer in the line, whether attached to volunteer companies or not, shall be bound at all times to appear on parade with a good musket, bayonet and cartridge-box ; and when called into actual service with a suitable knapsack— and every volunteer company neglecting to comply with, or actually violating the provisions of its charter, shall be formally cited by notice of at least 20 days, to show cause before the Commander-in-Chief, why it should not be disbanded, and if sufficient excuse is not rendered for such neglect or violation, the Commander-in-Chief, may disband the company, and institute proceedings against the officers of such company before a Court Martial.—*Provided* always, that every volunteer company shall be disbanded so soon as it is reduced below the number of forty rank and file.

Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted :—That there shall be two regimental parades

during the year, viz:—one on the first Saturday in March, and one on the first Saturday in September.—Company parades shall be held on the second Saturday in every second month.

The officers and non-commissioned officers of the staff and line, shall be required to parade for drill and other duty two successive days, preceeding each regimental parade, and the whole or any portion of the militia may be ordered on duty at such other times, as the Commander-in-Chief may direct.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That all general orders shall be issued by the commander-in-chief, through one of his Aids—brigade orders shall be distributed by the Brigade Major, and regimental orders by the Adjutant of each regiment.

The Brigade Major, shall keep a fair transcript of all returns made to him, in a book, and shall file all such returns in his office—and he shall make a full report of the state of arms, and equipments throughout the brigade, within twenty days after each regimental parade, to the Commander-in-Chief.

*Sec. 9. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be two Regimental Courts Martial held in each county, within twenty days after the regimental parades. The court shall be composed of the commanders of the regiment, where it is held, and at least four other commissioned officers. This court shall have cognizance of all military offences within its bounds, committed by officers below the rank of Major, and may impose fines and forfeitures incurred at regimental parades, and from this court, appeals may be had to the General Court Martial.

There shall be one General Court Martial held at Monrovia, on the second Wednesday in January, of each year, to be composed of a General and two or more staff officers, which shall have cognizance of all military offences committed by any officer above the rank of captain—and from this court, appeals may be had to the Commander-in-Chief.

*Sec. 10. Be it further Enacted:—*That any private failing to attend parade when properly notified, shall be fined in a sum not less than one and a half nor more than five dollars—for appearing without a gun, not less than twenty-five cents nor more than three dollars, and for any and every other article of arms, or equipment which he shall appear without, not less than twenty-five cents nor more than two dollars.—For every act of disorderly or unsoldierlike conduct, a sum not less than one dollar nor more than ten dollars—and for any act of disobedience or disrespect to officers, not less than two nor more than twenty-five dollars.—Every non-commissioned officer for any of the above offences, shall be fined double the sum imposed upon a private, and also be reduced to the ranks.

Any officer failing to appear on parade at any time when properly warned, shall be fined in a sum not less than three dollars, nor more than twenty dollars, and for failing to uniform himself according to law, shall be fined in a sum not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars, and for any unofficerlike conduct, or disobedience to superiors, may be fined in a sum not less than twenty dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, and may be further cashiered and reduced to the ranks.

And it shall be the duty of every staff and field officer, and every comman-

der of companies, and orderly sergeants to provide themselves with a copy of the most approved work on the tactics and discipline of the United States Army.

Sec. 11. Be it further Enacted:—That whenever the militia, or any portion thereof, shall be called into actual service, the pay of a private shall be eight dollars per month, and a daily allowance of one pint and a half of rice, and a half pound of beef or their equivalent in other wholesome provisions:—Corporals shall receive ten dollars per month, and like rations with a private:—Sergeants (except the orderly) eleven dollars:—Orderly Sergeants shall receive fifteen dollars per month:—Ensigns and Lieutenants shall receive seventeen dollars per month, and two rations:—Captains shall receive twenty-two dollars per month, and two rations:—Majors thirty dollars per month, and three rations:—Lieutenant Colonels shall receive thirty-five dollars per month, and three rations:—Colonels thirty eight dollars per month, and three rations.

Brigadier General forty dollars and four rations.

Sec. 12. Be it further Enacted:—That the general tactics and discipline of the militia—the police and general regulations when in actual service,—and the forms of proceedings in court martial, and all forms of military process, order of reports, accounts and returns shall be the same as in the United States service.

An Act establishing an Uniform Currency.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That the Engraved Bills of the American Colonization Society, under the control of their Agent, and none other, shall be the currency of this Commonwealth, and that the said Bills shall be at their par-value, a tender in all payments whatsoever.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the aforesaid Bills shall at all times be redeemable in Specie, Camwood or Ivory at the following rates;—Camwood at sixty dollars per ton, or 2240lbs;—Ivory from one pound to three pounds, fifty cents per pound—from three pounds to nine pounds, sixty cents—from nine pounds to nineteen and three quarter pounds, seventy five cents—and from nineteen and three quarter pounds and upwards, one dollar.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—That all and any Bills whatsoever in circulation issued “after the 21st, day of January 1840, on the Credit of the Commonwealth, of the denomination of Five, Three, Two and one Dollars;—Fifty cents, Twenty cents, Ten cents and Five cents, and Redeemable at the Treasury &c.” shall be received in payment for any taxes due to the Commonwealth, or for any debt due to the Colonization Society, or in case they shall not be applied to those purposes, they shall be Redeemable in the notes of the new currency.

Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—That the above regulations concerning Camwood and Ivory, shall not extend to special contracts or the transaction of business in general, so as to invalidate any contracts or lessen the value of those articles at rates previously obtaining.

Supplementary Act of the American Colonization Society.

WHEREAS, it is distinctly and emphatically understood that the American Colonization Society, is the only power having authority through its Board, or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, to create, regulate, or prescribe a monied currency within said Commonwealth, and its dependencies; Therefore.

Be it Enacted by the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society:— That no individual or association of individuals, under any pretence whatever, shall make or issue any note or notes, drafts, bills, orders or any other evidence of debt, or writing obligatory of any denomination in the nature of a promisory note, intended for circulation, as the representation of money, nor shall any such note, bill, or representation of money be recoverable in Law by any process, before any legal authority whatever. And if any person or persons shall be convicted on information given in due form of law, before any Justice of the Peace in the Commonwealth of Liberia, of making, issuing, or receiving any such note, or evidence of debt as aforesaid, in addition to the costs of suit, they and each of them shall pay a fine of double the amount of said note or notes, or other evidence of debt;—one half whereof shall go to the informer, and the other half shall be appropriated to the general Treasury of said Commonwealth.

A true copy from the Records of the
Board of Directors of the American
Colonization Society.

S. WILKESON,
President.

W. McLAIN,
Secretary of the Board.

An Act constituting and regulating a Post Office Department.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That there be a Post Office Department for this Commonwealth;—And that the Colonial Secretary be *Ex-officio* Post Master General.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That a Post Office be established in each of the towns of Monrovia, Marshall, Bassa Cove, Millsburgh, Caldwell and New-Georgia.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That there be appointed at each place a Post Master, and that a Carrier or Carriers be employed to convey the Mail, containing such letters, newspapers or pamphlets as may be forwarded therein: And that a fixed rate of postage be established, not exceeding twenty-five cents per hundred miles for each single letter, and a proportionate rate for nearer distances, to be collected by the said Post Masters;—monies thus collected shall be applied towards the payment of the expenses of the Department, and the balance of expenses shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the several post masters shall make

full and accurate returns on the first Tuesday in each month to the Post Master General, of all letters received at and forwarded from their respective offices, and on the same day (if not otherwise directed) pay over to him all monies in their hands so collected.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted—That the several Post Masters, excepting the Post Master General, be allowed fifteen per cent on all monies received by them for postage, as a full compensation for their services.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted—That from and after this date, it shall be the duty of the Collector immediately on the arrival of a vessel, to demand all letters, letter packages and papers which she may have brought, and deposite them in the Post Office, and on each letter thus received, two cents shall be paid to the Captain of the vessel, to be collected from those receiving them:—And that it shall not be lawful for carriers to receive letters to be carried outside of the mail within four miles of any post office.

Sec. 7. And be it further Enacted:—That the Post Master General shall have all letters hereafter received or sent by him free of postage—as well relating to his office of Colonial Secretary, as Head of this department.

And that the Lieutenant Governor may receive and send all his official letters by the mail free of postage.

An Act to provide and regulate Common Schools.

Section. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That there shall be established in each settlement, and township in this Commonwealth, at least one common school, and that said schools shall be under the entire control of the several school committees, hereinafter ordained, to be elected—who shall make rules for the government of the same,—visit them at least twice in the year, and be authorized to employ an instructor for each school:—*Provided always* that no one teacher, shall receive for his or her services exceeding four hundred dollars per annum. And *provided further* that each teacher shall at the end of each school term, furnish the committee a report shewing the state of his or her school, number of scholars and their ages, the time of entrance and by whom entered, and such other matters as may be deemed important.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That all persons shall be bound by law to send their children between the ages of five and twelve years to school, under the penalty, *without excuse*, of paying, at the suit of the school committee, the sum of three dollars for the benefit of the school.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—That all monies arising from licenses and unappropriated military and court fines, shall constitute a general fund to be called the school fund, of the counties of Montserrado and Grand Bassa:—And that all monies thus arising, shall be divided among the several towns and villages in a just ratio of their inhabitants.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—That the several towns and villages, shall in their municipal capacity, elect annually a school committee of five persons.

and also, be authorized to impose a tax on the male inhabitants over the age of twenty-one years, and all amounts thus or otherwise arising, shall be added to the dividend arising from the general fund, and applied to the sole use of schools.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That the School Committee in the several towns and villages, shall be empowered to draw quarterly their dividend from the general fund, and apply it with the monies raised by taxes, and the penalties imposed by the second section of this Act, to the erection, purchase, or hire of school houses—payment of teachers, and the purchase of such books as may be necessary for the use of the schools.

*Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—*That the elections for the School Committee shall be called by the several town clerks on the first Tuesday in February annually. The polls to be managed as in other elections, and the same pay allowed the Judges and clerks, which pay shall come out of the general fund.

An Act concerning Apprentices.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That the Probate Court shall and may bind out as an apprentice, every orphan child who has no estate, and every illegitimate or vagrant child till the age of twenty-one years, if a boy, or eighteen years if a girl, to any discreet person applying for or willing to receive such child—who shall covenant to teach him or her some art, trade or business;—also reading, writing and arithmetic, and to pay him or her twelve dollars, at the expiration of the time;—All which with the age of the apprentice, shall be specified in the indenture, which shall be filed in the Clerk's office of said court, and any parent or guardian may bind his or her child, or ward for the same period above mentioned, on reasonable terms, which terms shall with the apprentice's age, be specified in the indenture under the hand and seal of the parent or guardian, and the master or mistress. The indenture shall be filed by the master or mistress, in the Clerk's office aforesaid, within ten days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of twenty dollars, recoverable in an action of debt before the Court of Quarter Sessions. And all such indentures shall remain untransferable, except with the approbation of the said Probate Court.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That the Court of Quarter Sessions shall at all times hear and determine in a summary way, all complaints of apprentices, against their masters or mistresses, alledging undeserved or immoderate correction, or insufficient allowance of food, clothing, lodging, or instruction—making such order therein as in the judgment of said court will relieve the party injured—or remove any such apprentice, and bind him or her to other master or mistress, when it shall seem necessary—and said court may also hear and determine in like manner, all complaints of masters or mistresses, against their apprentices for misconduct or desertion without good cause.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That when the Court of Quarter Sessions is not sitting, any Justice of the Peace on receiving good information of any improper treatment from a master or mistress, to an apprentice shall summon such master or mistress to appear before him, and may require and take of him or her, a recognizance with reasonable and proper security to be forfeited in

case such master or mistress fail to appear at the next Court of Quarter Sessions, to answer and abide the determination of said court, on any complaint of his or her apprentice—Or in default thereof, the said Justice may take away such apprentice, and place him or her under the care of some other proper person, who shall be bound to have the apprentice before the said next court, to abide such determination as shall be made.

*Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—*That any person who shall knowingly, harbor or conceal any apprentice, who shall have deserted from his master or mistress—besides being liable to an action for damages, shall forfeit and pay to such master or mistress, two dollars for every day of such concealing or harboring.

An Act to prevent fraud in the Management of Intestate and other Estates.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That from and after the passage of this Act, no person or persons shall meddle or interfere with the estate of any person dying intestate, (except to take true and correct inventories of all the real and personal estate) unless authorized so to do by the Court of Probate, for the county wherein such intestate resided—and any person so doing shall thereby become liable for the payment of all the debts due by the deceased, and for the respective shares of the natural or legal heirs to such estate.

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That when any person shall die intestate it shall be the duty of the Probate Court, to appoint an administrator or administrators who shall give bond and security in double the estimated value of said intestate's estate, for the faithful performance of all the duties connected therewith, viz:—That he shall make a correct statement of all and singular the property and effects of said deceased:—That whatever thereof be perishable, he may sell at auction, after having given notice by advertisement in three of the most public places in the county for the space of twenty days—that such sale may, at the discretion of said administrator or administrators, be made at a credit not to exceed six months, on bond and sufficient sureties for the payment thereof, and that he shall make returns to the next term of the court of this and all other matters and doings connected with said estate. And should it be found that the said deceased was so indebted, as to make it necessary that a further sale of said property should be had, then he shall be ordered by the court to sell any or all of said estate for the payment of such claims:—And again should there not after such further sale be enough to meet all the legal claims—then, and in that case, a *pro rata* dividend shall be made to all the claimants against said estate.

The compensation allowed such administrator or administrators for his or their services shall be a commission not exceeding five per cent on said estate. *Provided always*, that when it may be necessary, in the recess of the Court of Probate, the Chairman of the said court may grant letters of administration and orders of sale as above directed to be done by the Court of which he is Chairman.

An Act establishing a Committee of Finance.

*Sec. 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That there shall be three persons appointed in each county yearly, at the first Session of the County Court, to act as a Committee of Finance—of whose names a record shall be made with the other business of said session;—and who for their services, shall be entitled to the same rates of pay as other Commissioners when actually employed in the service of the Commonwealth.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That it shall be the duty of said Committee of Finance, to assemble at the court house in each county, at least ten days before the meeting of the Legislative Council, and continue their sitting from day to day until their object is accomplished:—And they shall summon by a notice, to be served by the sheriff, the attendance before them, of all the officers of the Commonwealth (excepting the Governor,) through whose agency the fiscal affairs of the Government is conducted, at which call said officers shall be bound to attend, and render a comprehensive statement of such matters and things as are connected with the several trusts committed to them:—And a statement of the financial affairs of each county being thus ascertained, publication thereof by advertisement shall be made in each of the townships in this Commonwealth, so as that the condition of the money affairs of the Colony, shall be thereby made known to the people generally.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That should any officer on being cited as aforesaid, fail to attend and render the accounts required of him, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered in any court of law, having competent jurisdiction of such offences.

*Sec. 4. And be it further Enacted:—*That the report of the Committee aforesaid shall be evidence in all cases of settlement, with the officers of the Commonwealth:—And in case of their failing to make one within the time prescribed by law, they shall be fined in a sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

An Act to provide for the Support and Employment of the Poor.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That the support and maintainance of aged widows, destitute orphans, poor persons and invalid poor, shall be born by this Commonwealth, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted—*That manual and mechanic labor asylums shall be provided for such classes of individuals as are (whether colonist or native,) named in the first section, in each of the counties of the Commonwealth:—And that a Superintendent be appointed by the Governor and Council, whose business it shall be to superintend and manage the operative concerns of the said institution.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That all male inmates of these asylums not disabled from disease or otherwise, shall be employed in the cultivation of a farm, which will be connected with the establishment, and the profit arising therefrom shall go to the use of the institution, and any surplus shall be paid

into the Commonwealth Treasury:—Any tracts of land not otherwise appropriated, may be used for the establishment.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That a number of *cards, wheels, looms, knitting and sewing needles*, shall be provided for the use of all females who reside in the asylum, so that they may be employed in carding, spinning, weaving, knitting and sewing:—And to the end that there be no idlers about the institution:—The requisite quantum of wool, cotton, flax, hemp, and such other materials as may be manufactured into useful articles for the convenience of the country, shall be kept constantly on hand.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be a regular Teacher employed to take charge of a school attached to the asylum, whose business shall be to instruct the youths belonging to the institution in all the branches of a common English education.

*Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—*That for the improvement of the youth of this institution, Carpenters, Rope-makers, Blacksmiths, and such other mechanics as the improving state of the Colony may demand, shall be employed in and about the establishment, for the purpose of instructing the youth in these several branches.

*Sec. 7. Be it further Enacted:—*That the poor of this Commonwealth, shall not be allowed to wander about from one settlement to the other, but shall be taken by the officers appointed for that purpose, and placed under the care of the superintendent of the asylum.

*Sec. 8. Be it further Enacted:—*That a Board of twelve Commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor and Council annually, seven for the county of Montserrado, and five for the county of Grand Bassa. This board shall regularly inspect these institutions, and make semiannual reports to the Governor and Council, of the condition thereof,—the health of the inmates and their improvement in moral education, and the mechanic arts—whether they are properly fed and clothed—what the state of discipline—the receipts and expenditures of the asylum—and suggest any plan of improvement they may deem expedient. The board shall include also in their reports, the number of paupers—invalids—aged widows, and destitute orphans, in their respective counties.

*Sec. 9. And be it further Enacted:—*That there shall be kept, a record of the names of the inmates of each asylum, by the superintendent—which record shall be handed to the Commissioners, in time to be included in their reports to the Governor and Council.

An Act for the Relief of Farmers.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That by application of any person whose business is exclusively that of farming, made either to the Governor, or to any agent by him appointed—on the production of a certificate to that effect, from the Agricultural Committee of this Commonwealth, and on such bond and personal security as shall be required, made payable to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth—he shall have loaned to him at the lawful rate of interest in these colonies, the sum of five dollars an acre for each and

every acre of land by him cleared, and kept in constant cultivation, or that when a crop of one kind is removed, there shall remain to be seen thereupon, such other articles as distinctly mark its possessor, as one devoted to the particular interest and calling of a farmer.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That the repayment of the aforesaid sums, shall be made in the following manner, viz:—the interest on the whole sum due to be paid annually—one fourth of the principal at the end of one year—one fourth at the end of two years—one fourth at the end of three years—and the last remaining fourth at the end of four years:—And that the funds to supply the loan as aforesaid, shall be furnished out of any monies in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

*Sec. 3. And be it further Enacted:—*That notice by public advertisement of the provision of the law, shall be given by the Colonial Secretary, in every town, in the counties of Montserrat and Grand Bassa, immediately on the rise of the present Session of the Council, inviting such persons as are within the provision of this act, to make application accordingly

An Act annulling and forbidding a Statute of Limitation.

*Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That the law fixing a limitation in bar of the recovery of claims in this Commonwealth, be and the same is hereby repealed—and that no such law, statute or ordinance, shall be in force previously to the year Anno Domini, 1850.

An Act to prevent the disturbing Religious Congregations.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That it shall be the duty of any Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Constable, or other civil officer, being present when any person or persons shall interrupt or disturb any congregation assembled at any Church, Chapel or Meeting House, or any other place for public worship, during the Divine service, to take the person or persons so offending into custody, or on complaint made by any person under oath, any Justice of the Peace, shall issue a warrant against him or them so offending—and said Justice may impose a fine on such offender or offenders, not exceeding twenty dollars, or commit him or them to the common jail of the county, or the nearest jail, for a term of not exceeding fifteen days.

*Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted:—*That any officer who shall collect any fine imposed under this act, shall make return of the amount so imposed, and collected to the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer, for the use of the county wherein such offence shall have been committed.

An Act to prevent the destroying of Palm Trees.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it

is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, to cut down or destroy any Palm Trees on lands, for which he or they do not possess a fee simple title:—And that for every such offence, he, she, or they, shall be subjected to a fine of five dollars, recoverable before any Magistrate, for the use of the party suing for the same.

An Act for the relief of James Benson.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That from and after this date, James Benson shall be entitled to receive out of the funds of the Treasury of this Commonwealth, the sum of twelve dollars per annum—to be paid him on application therefor, at the seat of government, on the first Tuesday in December in each year—and his receipt for the same shall be allowed the Treasurer in the settlement of his account.

An Act for the Relief of James Henry.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That from and after this date, James Henry be allowed an annuity of twenty-four dollars—to be obtained quarterly, on application to the Governor, out of the Commonwealth Treasury.

An Act for the Relief of Harmon Whitfield.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That from and after the passage of this Act, Harmon Whitfield be allowed an annuity in the sum of forty dollars, to be obtained quarterly, on application to the Governor, out of the Commonwealth Treasury.

An Act restoring Wiley Brown, Edmond Curtis and Andrew Green, to the Privileges of Citizenship.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That from and after the passage of this Act, Wiley Brown, Edmond Curtis, and Andrew Green, be, and are hereby severally restored to the rights, privileges, and immunities granted to all other good citizens of this Commonwealth.

An Act to incorporate the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Monrovia.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That from and

after the passage of this Act, that Colinette Johnson, Susannah E. Lewis, Melinda Crawford, Frances Teage, Willy-Ann Yates, and all persons who now are or who hereafter may become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Monrovia, and by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require:—But the annual income of the real estate to be held by them shall not exceed three thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the object of this Society shall be to relieve the distressed, and to administer to the necessities of those whose circumstances render them proper objects of benevolence—to encourage, recommend and diffuse by precept and example, virtuous and honorable sentiments and feeling.

Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—That the management and disposition of the affairs of the said corporation shall be vested in a Board of Managers to be elected annually in the town of Monrovia, on the second Wednesday in November.

Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—That the persons named in the first section of this Act, shall be the first Board of Managers of such corporation, and shall hold their office until the next annual election, or until others shall be elected in their place.

Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—That the said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities imposed on similar institutions in the United States.

Sec. 6. Be it further Enacted:—That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

An Act to incorporate the Ladies' Dorcas Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—That, from and after the passage of this Act, Sarah Gripon, Mary Ann Benedict, Rebecca Moore Malinda Crawford, Mary Ann Prout, Sarah Brown, Cherry Anderson, Amelia Burns, and all persons who now are, or who hereafter may become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Dorcas Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and by that name and style be capable of purchasing, holding and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require:—But the annual income of the real estate to be held by them, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the object of this Society, shall be to relieve the poor in Monrovia and elsewhere, as far as means can be obtained by soliciting subscriptions and donations in money, clothing or any other useful article, and to clothe converted natives in the neighbouring towns.

Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—That the management and disposition of the affairs and property of the said corporation, shall be vested in a standing com-

mittee, and an agent to be elected annually on the second Thursday in January, in the town of Monrovia.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the persons named in the first section of this Act, shall be the first Board of Managers of said corporation, and shall hold their office until the next annual election, or until others shall be elected in their place.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That the said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities imposed on similar institutions in the United States.

*Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—*That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

An Act to incorporate the Union Sisters of Charity of Monrovia.

*Section 1. Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—*That Mary L. Johnson, Rebecca M. Harris, Elizabeth Ciples, Marinda Cooper, Rachel Eden, Harriet Eden, Mary Hunter, and all persons who now are, or who hereafter may become associated with them, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of the Union Sisters of Charity, and by that name and style, be capable of purchasing, holding, and conveying such real estate as the purposes of the corporation shall require:—But the annual income of the real estate to be held by them, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars.

*Sec. 2. Be it further Enacted:—*That the object of the said corporation, shall be to assist to the utmost of their ability, all subjects of charity, by helping the widow, and relieving the orphan and needy, clothe, feed, educate, and otherwise provide for such as the corporation may from time to time be enabled to take under its patronage.

*Sec. 3. Be it further Enacted:—*That the management and disposition of the affairs of the said corporation, shall be vested in a standing committee, and an agent to be elected annually, on the third day of November, in the town of Monrovia.

*Sec. 4. Be it further Enacted:—*That the persons named in the first section of this Act, shall be the first Board of Managers of such corporation, and shall hold their office until the next annual election, or until others shall be elected in their place.

*Sec. 5. Be it further Enacted:—*That said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the liabilities imposed on similar institutions in the United States,

*Sec. 6. And be it further Enacted:—*That the Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this Act.

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REGULATIONS FOR THE PORTS OF LIBERIA.

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GENERAL PORT REGULATIONS FOR THE COLONY OF LIBERIA.

ARTICLE 1. The lawful commerce of all nations shall be on an equal footing in the Ports of the Commonwealth, so far as they shall transact lawfully their business in such ports.

ART. 2. All foreign vessels upon their arrival in the harbor, shall deliver their papers into the office of the Collector, give bond or deposite property to the amount of one hundred dollars:—Returnable as soon as a clearance has been obtained.

ART. 3. All foreign vessels coming to anchor in the harbor, shall pay an anchorage and a Light-house duty of fifteen dollars.

ART. 4. No boats shall be allowed to board foreign vessels entering the harbor, until the Port Officer's boat has taken cognizance of the same, and all persons violating this regulation, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, at the discretion of the Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor, during the absence of the Governor.

ART. 5. If any vessel commences to unload previously to having been reported, and without having obtained a regular permit from the Port Officer, the master of such vessel will be liable to a fine, not exceeding three hundred dollars at the discretion of the Governor.

ART. 6. Vessels anchoring after sunset, are bound to show their colors on the following morning after day-light, under a penalty of fifty dollars.

ART. 7. None of a vessel's crew shall be discharged and left on shore without the permission of the Governor, under a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars.

ART. 8. Masters of vessels are prohibited from taking on board, or giving passage to any individuals of this Colony, without a Passport from the Colonial Secretary, unless to be landed at an American settlement, under a penalty of not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars.

ART. 9. It is not permitted to fire with Guns, Muskets, Pistols or other Firearms in the harbor after sunset, under a penalty of five dollars for each offence.

ART. 10. All vessels engaged in the Slave-Trade, are prohibited from anchoring in the harbor, or having any communication with the inhabitants of the Colony, except in cases of distress, when the circumstances are to be reported to the Governor for his decision.

ART. 11. Any foreign vessel, trading with natives of the country or other persons, at any place within the jurisdiction of the Colony, (say between Grand Cape Mount, on the North West, and New Cesters on the South East,) except at one of the regular ports of entry, and in conformity with these regulations, shall be liable to a penalty of four times the amount of the goods so traded, or to a fine of not less than one hundred, nor more than one thousand dollars, at the discretion of the Governor, or the Court before whom the case may be tried.

ART. 12. No foreigner shall trade with another foreigner or native within the limits of this Commonwealth—or with other colonist than commission

LAWS OF LIBERIA.

...without the intervention of a commission merchant, under a permit not to exceed in value \$100 nor more than \$200.

ART. 13. The Collector shall inspect all boats coming from foreign vessels or otherwise, and all goods landed from such boats not enumerated in permit shall be seized.

ART. 14. All registered vessels sailing under the flag and protection of this Government shall present a correct manifest of cargo to the Collector within 24 hours after their arrival.

ART. 15. The Port Officer is entrusted with the execution of the preceding Regulations, and must be obeyed without delay.

ART. 16. Any foreign vessel having complied with the requisition of Art. 3rd, at any one port, shall not be compelled to pay anchorage duty at any other port during the same voyage.

ART. 17. All masters of vessels entering the harbor will receive from the Port Officer a printed copy the Port Regulations; for which, 25 cents are to be paid.

*Ratified in Monrovia, by the Governor
and Council of Liberia, in Legislature
assembled, (January 1841.)*

END OF PART FIRST.

W. Long

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1843

W. Long

