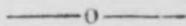


BOOK III.

STATUTE LAWS

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.



AN ACT REGULATING NAVIGATION, COMMERCE AND REVENUE.

ARTICLE I.

OF THE REGISTRY OF VESSELS.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Letters on vessels name and port painted on her stern; size of letters; to have a flag.—register and sailing license; tax fee &c; &c..... | 1 |
| None but vessels owned by a citizen entitled to registry..... | 2 |
| Register, how obtain; forfeiture of the vessels &c., if obtained fraudulently..... | 3 |
| Vessels to be measured and described; certificate of; need not be measured anew..... | 4 |
| Change of the master of a registered vessels to be reported &c., &c..... | 5 |
| When a vessel shall be transferred, or altered in form or burthen, a new register to be obtain; bill of sale necessary in transfers..... | 6 |
| If the register of a vessel be lost, how a new one may be obtained..... | 7 |
| If the register be retained by former owner, how a new one may be granted. | 8 |
| Secretary of the Treasury to supply blank registers; how filed up and returns made..... | 9 |
| Penalty for fraudulently obtaining, gorging, counterfeiting, or falsifying any register, sailing license or other document,&c..... | 10 |
| Officers of the revenue may inspect register, license, &c., penalty for refusing to exhibit such papers. Registry officers, penalty for false certificate or false registry; for receiving greater fees than are allowed by law; or wilfully neglecting to perform any duty in respect to their office..... | 11 |
| Fees for the several duties pursuant to the registry and license of vessels.. | 12 |

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

SECTION. 1. That the owner or owners of all decked vessels, and boats without decks, over the burthen of five tons, belonging to this Republic, shall not sail the same outside of the rivers and ports of Liberia, without first having the name, and port from which such vessel hails, painted on her stern, on a black ground, in white letters of not less than two and a half inches in length, and providing such vessel with a flag of the Republic; (Viz; six red stripes with five white stripes alternately displayed longitudinally. In the upper angle of the flag, next to the spear, a square blue ground covering in depth five stripes. In the centre of the blue one white star:) a register from under the hand and seal of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Register, and of the Collector, of the port from which she may sail, and a sailing license from under the hand and seal of said Collector, under the penalty of five dollars a ton for every such unlawful trip or trips, and all such vessels shall pay a tax of seventy-five cents a ton, per annum, which tax shall be paid by the master or owner of such vessel before the above named license shall be granted.

2. No vessel shall be entitled to registry, or if registered to the benefits thereof, if owned in whole, or in part by any foreigner, or by any citizen usually residing in any foreign country, unless he be a consul or agent for this government.

3. In order to the registry of a vessel, the owner or one of the owners, shall take and subscribe before the registering office an oath, declaring to the best of his knowledge and belief, her name and burthen, the time when, and the place where she was built, if in Liberia: if not that she is foreign built, and that he is the sole, or joint owner of such vessel, naming the other owners if any, and their place of abode, and that he or they so swearing are citizens of Liberia. In case any matter of fact alleged in such oath within the knowledge of the party swearing shall not be true, there shall be a forfeiture of the vessel with her tackle, furniture and apparel, or a sum of money at the discretion of the court, before which the case may be tried, of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, to be recovered with cost of suit of the person making such oath.

4. Before a vessel shall be registered, she shall be measured by the Collector of the port where she may be, or by some person whom the Collector shall appoint: and such measurer shall for the information of, and as a voucher to the officer by whom the registry is to be made, grant a certificate specifying the built of such vessel, her number of decks, and masts, her length, breadth, depth, the number of tons she measures, and such other particulars as are usually descriptive of a ves-

ed), and that the name, and the place to which she belongs are painted on her stern in manner and form required by law; which certificate shall be countersigned by the owner, or the master of such vessel in testimony of the truth of the particulars of the admeasurement &c. therein contained. But in all cases where a vessel has been registered before as a vessel of this Republic, it shall not be necessary to measure her anew for the purpose of obtaining another register—except she shall have undergone some alteration, as to her burthen subsequently to the time of the former registry.

5. If the master of a registered vessel be changed, the owner or one of them shall report such change to the Collector of the port where it shall happen, or where the vessel shall first be after it shall have happened, and shall produce to him the register, and make oath that he believes the new master to be a citizen of Liberia:—whereupon the Collector shall endorse on the register, and subscribe a memorandum of such change, specifying the name of the new master. If such change shall not be reported, or if such oath shall not be so taken, the registry of the vessel shall be void, and the master shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five dollars.

6. When any registered vessel shall, in part or in whole, be transferred to a citizen, or shall be altered in form or burthen, by being lengthened, or built upon, or from one denomination to another, by the mode of rigging, she shall be registered anew, the former register shall be delivered up to the Collector, to be by him transmitted to the Register, who shall cause the same to be canceled;—and in every such case of transfer, there shall be some instrument in the nature of a bill of sale, otherwise such vessel shall not be registered anew.

7. If the register of a vessel be lost, destroyed, or mislaid, the owner or master of such vessel may make and subscribe an oath before the Collector of the port where such vessel shall first be, after such loss, destruction or mislaying, of the facts of the cause; upon such oath being made, and the other requisites of registry being complied with, such Collector shall grant a new register, inserting therein that it has been issued in the room of the one lost, destroyed, or mislaid.

8. On satisfactory proof to the Secretary of the Treasury, that a vessel has been sold and transferred by process of law, and that her register is retained by the former owner or owners he may direct the Collector of the port to which she may belong, to grant a new register, on the purchaser complying with the terms and conditions for granting registers, excepting only delivering up the former register.

9. The Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and transmit, from time to time, to the Collectors of the several ports in this Republic, a sufficient number of blank registers, ex-

cut in such manner, and with such marks, as he may direct; such blanks shall be tested under the seal of the Treasury Department, to be filled up by the Collectors respectively. The Collectors of each port shall number progressively the registers granted by him, beginning anew at the commencement of each fiscal year, and shall enter in a book, to be kept for that purpose, a memorandum of the issue of every register granted by him, stating the name of the owner or owners, the name of the vessel, her tonnage, denomination, and the number and date of her register; a copy of which memorandum shall be transmitted by him once in three months to the Secretary of the Treasury. Before the delivery of a register, the Collector shall have affixed thereto, the signature and seal of the Register of the country from which the vessel may sail, and shall have recorded in the said Register's office the certificate of the admeasurement of the vessel so registered; copies of such certificates shall be transmitted by the Register once in three months to the Secretary of the Treasury.

10. If any register shall be fraudulently obtained, or knowingly used for any vessel not then actually entitled to the benefit thereof, she with her tackle, apparel, and furniture shall be forfeited to this Republic. If any person shall forge, counterfeit, erase, alter or falsify any register, sailing license, or other document required by this Act, he shall for each offence forfeit and pay one hundred dollars. If any person shall falsely make oath or affirmation to any of the matters required by this Act, he shall suffer like pains and penalties as persons committing wilful and corrupt perjury.

11. Any officer concerned in the collection of the revenue, or the commander of any armed vessel of the Republic, may, at all times, inspect the register or license of any vessel; and if her master shall not exhibit the same when required by such officer he shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars.

12. Every officer who shall knowingly make, or be concerned in making, any false certificate of registry of any vessel, or other false document whatever, under the provisions of this Act, or who shall designedly take any other or greater fees than are allowed by law, or who shall receive any voluntary reward, or gratuity, for services performed pursuant thereto; and every person measuring a vessel who shall wilfully deliver a false description of such vessel to be registered, shall upon conviction of any such neglect or offence, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars. If any person required by the registering Act in respect to his office, to perform any thing pursuant thereto, shall wilfully neglect to perform it he shall on conviction, forfeit and pay twenty-five dollars to the injured in consequence of such neglect.

13. The fees for the several duties and services to be performed pursuant to the registry and license of vessels, shall be as follows: For admeasuring every vessel in order to registry, if of the burthen of five tons and less than ten tons, one dollar and twenty five cents, if of twenty tons and not exceeding fifty tons, one dollar and fifty cents and of fifty tons upwards, two dollars. For every certificate of admeasurement, fifty cents: for every register for vessels over fifty tons, three dollars; under fifty tons, two dollars: open boats, one dollar: one half of said sum to be paid into the Treasury of the Republic, the other half to go the Collector and Register equally. For every endorsement on register, fifty cents: for every sailing license fifty cents.



ARTICLE II.

OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Piracy—to build, fit, equip, or otherwise prepare a vessel for the trade; or any way aiding or abetting such trade &c. &c..... | 1 |
| Piracy—to receive or transport any African held as a slave, or intended to be enslaved..... | 2 |
| Penalty—for serving on board a Liberian vessel engaged in the slave trade..... | 3 |
| Penalty—for voluntarily serving on board a foreign vessel do—do—..... | 4 |
| Liberian vessels prohibited from every species of intercourse with slaves..... | 5 |
| No citizen, or other person resident in this Republic shall act as agent, or enter into the service of any person engaged in the slave trade,..... | 6 |
| Guilty of an infraction of the 6 Sec. if found in the neighborhood of any slave establishment—except &c. &c..... | 7 |
| President—authorized to employ the armed vessels of the Republic to cruise against slavers, or others contravening the laws..... | 8 |
| Persons—found on board slave vessels, of the officers or crew to be apprehended and taken into custody, &c' &c'..... | 9 |
| Proceeds of vessels &c. condemned as slavers, equally divided &c' &c'.. | 10 |

1. No citizen of, or other person coming into, or resident in, this Republic, shall for himself, or another, either as master, factor, or owner, build, fit, equip, or otherwise prepare any vessel to sail from any port thereof, for the purpose of carrying on traffic in slaves. Every vessel so fitted out, or sailing, her tackle, furniture, and apparel shall be forfeited to this Republic; and may be seized, and prosecuted, and condemned in any court having competent jurisdiction; and every person so building, fitting out, equipping, loading or otherwise preparing or sending away any vessel knowing, or intending that she shall be employed in such trade, &c.

any way aiding or abetting therein, shall be deemed guilty of piracy, and shall suffer such pains and penalties as by law may be attached to the crime of piracy.

2. If any citizen or other person, resident within the jurisdiction of this Republic, shall knowingly take on board, receive or transport from one place to another any African held as a slave, or intended to be enslaved, he, on conviction thereof shall suffer the pains and penalties incurred under the last paragraph of the preceding section; and every vessel in which such slave, or person intended to be enslaved shall have been so taken on board, received, or transported, with the tackle, furniture, apparel, and the goods and effects that shall be found on board, shall be forfeited; one moiety to the Republic, and the other to the prosecutor: and such vessel shall be liable to seizure by any officer of the customs, navy or revenue service of this Republic, and prosecuted and condemned in any court having competent jurisdiction.

3. Any citizen of this Republic or other person residing therein who shall be found serving on board any Liberian vessel employed in the slave trade shall be liable to be, and may be indicted for slave trading, and on conviction, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisoned not exceeding five years.

4. If any citizen of this Republic shall voluntarily serve on board any foreign vessel employed in the slave trade, he shall, on conviction thereof, be liable to, and suffer like forfeitures and penalties as he would have incurred had such vessel been owned or employed in whole, or in part by any citizen or other person within this Republic.

5. All vessels sailing under the flag of this Republic are hereby prohibited from any and every species of intercourse with slaves at sea and otherwise, and are strictly forbidden to trade with them, in any kind of goods, wares or merchandise, or to hold any negotiation or intercourse with them, under the penalty of indictment and fine of five hundred dollars for each offence.

6. No citizen of Liberia, or other person resident within the jurisdiction of the same, shall be permitted to act as agent, or enter into the employ or service of any person engaged in the slave trade, or any person in the remotest degree connected with them under the penalty of indictment, and of being twelve months bound to hard labor in irons, or fined in a sum of not less than five hundred dollars.

7. Any citizen of Liberia being found in the neighbourhood of any slave establishment shall be deemed guilty of an infraction of the 6th section of this article, and shall forfeit or suffer the pains or penalties last above named. But should any citizen, so implicated, show that, he or she, was by accident or distress of weather, thrown into that situation, the President being satisfied of such fact, may admit the

plea, and order the release of the accused party.

8. The President of the Republic may whenever he shall deem it expedient, cause any armed vessel or vessels of this Republic to cruise on any part of the Liberian coast or elsewhere, where he may judge attempts may be made to carry on the slave trade by any citizen or citizens of this Republic, and instruct the commander of such armed vessel to seize, take, and bring into any port of this Republic all foreign vessels, found on the Liberian coast; and all Liberian vessels, wheresoever found, which may, on reasonable grounds, be suspected of being engaged in the slave trade, or otherwise contravening the provisions of this Act, or any of the Acts, of the Legislature of this Republic, to be proceeded against according to law.

9. If any commissioned vessel of this Republic seize and take any vessel employed in the slave trade, it shall be the duty of the commander of such commissioned vessel to apprehend and take into custody every person found on board such vessel so seized and taken, being of the officers or crew thereof, and them convey, as soon as conveniently may be, to the civil authority of this Republic, in some one of the districts thereof, to be proceeded against in due course of law.

10. And the proceeds of all vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the goods, and effects on board of them which shall be so seized, prosecuted, and condemned, shall be divided equally between the Republic and the officers and men who shall seize, take and bring the same into port for condemnation.

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ARTICLE III.

OF THE CLEARANCE AND ENTRY OF VESSELS ENGAGED IN DOMESTIC TRADE.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Liberian vessels bound coast-wise master or owner required to deliver manifest of cargo, subscribed and sworn to— forfeiture for neglect..... | 1 |
| Master or owner or deposit manifest within 24 hours after arrival..... | 2 |
| Liberian vessel not to break bulk until penalty for neglect..... | 3 |
| Vessels without manifest and clearance may be seized. Merchandize not specified on manifest may be seized,—Remedy, &c..... | 4 |

1. The master or owner of any vessel sailing under the flag of this Republic, and bound coast-wise on a trading

voyage shall deliver to the collector of the port from which such vessel shall be about to sail, a manifest of all such cargo on board, by him subscribed, and he shall swear to the truth thereof and other matters in said oath as follows: 1. — master or owner, as the case may be, of the vessel called the ——— bound from the port of ——— on a voyage along the Liberia coast, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear that the manifest of the cargo on board the said ——— now delivered by me, and subscribed by my name, contains according to the best of my knowledge and belief, a full and just account of the goods, wares and merchandize now actually laden on board the said vessel ——— I do also swear that I verily believe the duties on all the foreign goods, wares and merchandize, therein specified, have been paid or secured according to law, and if any other goods, wares or Merchandize shall be laden or put on board the said vessel previous to her sailing from this port, I will report the same to the Collector, so help me God. Whereupon the Collector shall grant a clearance upon a duplicate of said manifest, for such vessel and cargo with the above oath endorsed upon its back; and if any vessel as aforesaid shall depart on the voyage without delivering such manifest, and obtaining a clearance, the owner of such vessel shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars for every such offence.

2. The master or owner of any vessel sailing under the flag of this Republic, shall within twenty four hours after the arrival of such vessel in any of the ports of entry of this Republic, deposit in the custom house a correct manifest of the cargo on board, stating distinctly what part of said goods, wares, or merchandize were laden on board such vessel, and cleared on her departure from a port of entry in Liberia; and, if any, such as have been received on board at sea, or elsewhere, during her present voyage, and shall subscribe on oath or affirmation before the Collector, or his deputy, to the correctness thereof: until such manifest shall have been deposited, and subscribed as above, it shall not be lawful for any such vessel to break bulk or land any part of her cargo under the penalty of fifty dollars.

3. If upon the inspection of any vessel engaged in the coast trade, by any officer of the revenue service, it shall be found that such vessel is not furnished with an endorsed manifest and clearance as required by the 1st section of this article said officer may seize such vessel and send her without delay to the port to which she belongs, to be proceeded against according to law.

4. Should any vessel engaged in the coast trade upon inspection by any officer of the revenue, be found to have foreign goods or merchandize on board, which are not specified on the manifest of her cargo, said goods or merchandize

shall be seized and confiscated to the government. Nevertheless, on boarding such vessel, should the master, or other person in charge of such vessel, exhibit to the officer a list of such goods or merchandize not enumerated in the manifest, and received on board after her departure from a port of delivery, stating the circumstances under which they were received on board, and that the duties will be accounted for, such goods or merchandize shall not be seized.

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ARTICLE IV.

OF PORTS AT WHICH ENTRY MAY BE MADE, AND GOODS LANDED.

| | SEC. |
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| Arriving from foreign port, vessels and cargo entered at port of entry—wishing to trade coastwise furnish declaration of intention—one third of duties paid down—tax fee per ton—trading license and gen. permit—fee for do: penalty for violating do—report to Sec. Treasury—do furnish officer of the revenue—drawback, how obtained Sec..... | 1 |
| Ports of entry and delivery..... | 2 |
| Manifest for goods from a foreign port—frm &c. &c.—list of passengers | 3 |
| Forfeiture for failing to produce manifest &c. &c..... | 4 |
| Master required to produce manifest, where and to whom—certificate of officer upon the back..... | 5 |
| Penalty for refusal to produce manifest—for false account of destination &c..... | 6 |
| Officer to make report to Sec. Treasury—name the vessel and master.. | 7 |
| Penalty for unladnig before proper entry be made—except &c. &c.. | 8 |
| Vessel entered and papers deposited &c. &c, within 24 hours after arrival &c..... | 9 |
| Consul not deliver register until clearance is produced..... | 10 |
| In absence of consul, bonds with securities to be given..... | 11 |
| Twelve hours notice before clearance—render an account of goods landed &c, &c—Collector enter in a book all goods..... | 12 |
| No goods landed without permit—penalty for neglect..... | 13 |
| Persons applying for permit responsible for duties—goods shall be landed between the hours of six A. M. and six P. M..... | 14 |
| Must account to Collector for trade made in harbors—Collector may put an inspector on board any vessel..... | 15 |
| Vessel attempting to depart etc. before entry—master fined—except | 19 |

1. No vessel which shall arrive from any foreign Port, nor the cargo on board shall be entered elsewhere than at one of the ports of entry established in this Republic—nor shall such cargo be landed elsewhere than at one of the ports of delivery : Nevertheless said cargo may be landed on any part of the coast of this Republic under the following regulations :

The master, supercargo, or agent of any foreign vessel arriving on the Liberian coast, and wishing to trade at

points beyond the limits of Ports of Entry in this Republic, shall, upon the entry of his vessel, at the custom house and before he commences to unlade any part of his cargo, furnish the Collector of the port at which he enters his vessel, with a written declaration of his intention to trade coastwise, containing the names of the places at which he intends so to trade: and the master, supercargo, or agent shall present to said Collector the invoice or invoices of the entire cargo consigned to him on board his vessel, which shall be entered at the Custom House, as a direct consignment, according to the forms and stipulations of the 2d section of the 5th article of this Act, and the tariff duties thereon shall be assessed accordingly. One third of the assessment shall be paid down, the remainder two thirds shall be secured to the Government by bonds with good and sufficient sureties payable in equal instalments at sixty and ninety days after date.

The master, supercargo, or agent aforesaid, shall pay in manner and form, the same annual tax per ton for said vessel as is by the 1st. section of the 1st. article of this Act required for Liberian vessels: and he shall also obtain from the government a license for each trading station. The Collector shall also administer to the master, supercargo, or other person so applying for license to trade coastwise, the same oath that is directed to be administered to masters or owners of Liberian Vessels in section 1st. of the 3rd. Article of this act. When these provisions shall have been complied with,—the Collector shall grant to the said master, supercargo, or agent, a general permit from under his hand and seal of office, naming the points for which trading license have been obtained, and at which the said master, supercargo, or agent is permitted to land the whole or any part of the cargo of his vessel. For each general permit and license so granted, the Collector shall receive a fee of one dollar to be paid by said master, supercargo, or agent.

It shall be the duty of the Collector within three days after the granting of a general permit and license for trading stations according to the above provisions, to forward to the Secretary of the Treasury, a written report, enclosing the declaration and copies of the permit and license thereupon by him granted, containing the name of the vessel, the master's name, tonnage of the vessel, and the nation to which she belongs. Upon the receipt of which, the Secretary of the Treasury shall furnish the commanding officer of the Revenue service with copies of the above mentioned papers and documents.

The master, supercargo, or agent of any foreign vessel entered as above to trade coastwise, who may land any part of said cargo beyond the jurisdiction of the Republic,

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shall, on the presentation of a certificate to the Secretary of the Treasury, signed by the master and first mate of such vessel from which said goods or merchandise have been landed, and by them sworn to, stating the articles, quantity of each, where, when, and to whom landed, and said certificate, also signed by two merchants, if any there be, residing at the place or places, where said goods or merchandise were landed and sold; and also a correct account or accounts of all goods or merchandise landed within the jurisdiction of this Republic, stating the different articles, and quantity of each so landed, and to whom delivered at the different places along the coast, receive from the Public Treasury, on warrant from the President, a drawback of the amount of duties arising upon the goods or merchandise thus landed beyond the jurisdiction of the Republic, less twelve and a half per centum.

All goods or merchandize landed in violation of these provisions shall be forfeited, and the master or owner so landing such goods or merchandize, shall, upon conviction thereof, before any court having competent jurisdiction, forfeit and pay the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every such offence.

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2. Monrovia, Marshall, Grand Bassa and Sinoe, are declared to be ports of delivery. Every port of delivery shall be a Port of Entry.

3. No goods, wares or merchandize shall be brought into this Republic from a foreign place, in any vessel, unless the master of such vessel shall have a manifest in writing, signed by him, containing the names of the places, where the goods or merchandize in such manifest mentioned, shall have been respectively taken on board, and the places in Liberia for which they are respectively consigned: particularly noting the goods destined for each place, the names of the persons to whom they are consigned agreeable to the bills of lading, unless when the goods are consigned to order, when it shall be so expressed: He also furnishing a list containing the names of the passengers on board, distinguishing whether cabin or steerage passengers.

4. If any goods or merchandize be imported into this Republic in any vessel, whether Liberian or foreign, from any foreign place without having a manifest on board, agreeable to the foregoing directions; or which shall not be included therein, or shall not agree therewith, the master of such vessel shall forfeit and pay a sum of money, equal to the value of the goods not included in the manifest: and all such merchandize not included in the manifest, belonging or consigned to, the supercargo, master, mate, officers or crew of such vessel, shall be forfeited, unless it be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Collector, or to the satisfaction of the court before which a trial shall be had, cons.

cerning said goods, that no part of the cargo had been unshipped since first taken on board, except such as shall have been particularly specified and accounted for in the report of the master to the collector, and that the manifest had been lost or mislaid without fraud or collusion, or that they were defaced by accident, or incorrect by mistake when the forfeiture shall not be incurred.

5. The master of every such vessel laden with goods or merchandize, and bound to any port in this Republic, shall on this arrival within four leagues of the coast, or within any of the bays, harbors, ports or rivers thereof, upon demand, produce the manifest which he is required to have, to such officer of the customs or revenue service, as shall first come on board for inspection: and shall deliver to him true copies thereof, which shall be provided and subscribed by the master. The officer to whom the original manifest shall have been so produced, shall certify upon the back thereof that it was so produced, and the day and year on which it was so produced, and that such copies were to him delivered and by him examined with the original manifest.

6. If the master of a vessel so laden, and bound to any place in this Republic, shall not upon his arrival within four leagues of the coast, or within the limits of any port of delivery thereof, where the cargo of such vessel or any part thereof is intended to be discharged, produce the manifest heretofore required, to the proper officer upon demand thereof, and deliver such copies in each case: or shall not deliver an account of the true destination of such vessel, which he is required to do upon request of such officer; or give a false account of such destination of the manifest, such master shall forfeit for every such neglect, refusal, or offence a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars.

7. The officer who may apply to the master having the charge or command of such vessel, respecting any of the foregoing provisions, and who shall not receive full satisfaction therein, shall make return in writing of the name of the vessel and master so offending in any or all of the particulars required, immediately, or as soon after as possible, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

8. If after the arrival of any such vessel so laden with goods or merchandize within the jurisdiction of this Republic, any part of the cargo of such vessel shall be unladen for any purpose whatever, before she come to the proper place for the discharge of her cargo, or some part thereof, and be there duly authorized by the proper officer of the customs to unlade the same—the master of such vessel shall forfeit and pay the sum of one thousand dollars for each offence, and the goods or merchandize so unladen shall be forfeited—excepting in the case of some unavoidable accident,

necessity or distress of weather ; of which the master of such vessel shall give notice to, and, together with two or more of the officers or crew on board such vessel, shall make proof upon oath before, the Collector of the district within the limits of which, such accident, necessity, or distress shall happen.

9. The master of any foreign vessel anchoring in the port of this Republic, shall, within twenty four hours from the time of his anchoring, enter his vessel at the Custom House, by exhibiting his register or other documents in lieu thereof, together with the clearance and other papers granted by the officers of the Customs, at her departure from the port from which she may have arrived ; and if said master has not before exhibited his manifest and furnished copies thereof as required by the 5th section of this Article, he shall, on the entry of his vessel, exhibit to the Collector a correct manifest of the cargo on board his vessel, and furnish the Collector a copy of such manifest subscribed by said master, and certified by the following oath, to be administered by the Collector, copy
You do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that the manifest of cargo now exhibited by you, is a just and true account of the goods and merchandize on board of your vessel called the——according to the best of your knowledge and belief. All articles of cargo not specified in the manifest shall be liable to seizure and confiscation. The manifest so delivered shall be filed in the office of the Collector, to be exhibited in evidence against said vessel, should it afterward appear that there are other goods or merchandize on board ; or that goods have been landed from such vessel, not specified in said manifest. Until such entry has been made, and verified as above, it shall not be lawful for said vessel to commence to unlade any part of the cargo on board, under the penalty of the seizure of such goods so landed, and a fine of one hundred dollars, recoverable from the master so offending : and it shall be the duty of the master within twentyfour hours after such entry, to deposit the paper mentioned in the first paragraph of this section, with the consul or vice consul of the nation to which the vessel belongs, and to deliver to the Collector a certificate of such consul, or vice consul that they have been so deposited, and such master who shall fail to comply with this regulation, shall, upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, be fined in a sum not less than one hundred dollars.

10. No foreign consul shall deliver to the master of any foreign vessel the register and other papers deposited with him pursuant to the 9th section of this article, until such master shall produce to him a clearance, in due form, from

the Collector of the port where such vessel has been entered and any consul, or vice consul offending against this provision, shall upon conviction thereof before the supreme Court of this Republic, be fined at the discretion of the said court, in a sum not less than five hundred dollars.

11. Where there is no consul, or vice consul, or other agent resident in Liberia to represent a nation, every master of a vessel belonging to such nation, shall, before he commence to unlade or land any part of his cargo, give security to the Collector, either by the deposit of funds in his hands, or by bond with good securities to ensure the revenue against loss by fraud, or attempt to resist, or violate the laws established to regulate commerce.

12. The master of every foreign vessel, having transacted business in the ports of this Republic, shall give at the Custom House at least twelve hours notice of his intention to depart. He shall render a just account of all goods and merchandize landed from his vessel and shall verify the same by the following oath, to be administered by the Collector: You do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that the list or account now presented to the Custom House, is a just account of the merchandize or other goods landed by you at this port according to the best of your knowledge and belief, so help you God. The Collector shall thereupon immediately assess the duties, adding thereto all other dues and charges established by law: and when he shall have received the amount, he shall return to the said master, where bond or deposit has been made,—his bond or other deposit for security, and grant said vessel a clearance. It shall be the duty of every such master to render into the Custom House, upon clearing his vessel, a just account of the amount of specie and African produce received on board; stating the kind of produce, and qualities of each kind, as well as the names of all persons who are about to take passage in his vessel; all of which statements shall be regularly entered by the Collector in a book provided and adapted for the purpose to be called *export-book*. It shall be the duty of the Collector to enter all goods and merchandize brought into the Republic in a book provided for that purpose, to be called *import-book*.

13. No goods or merchandize shall be landed from any vessel or boat without a permit to be obtained thereof from the Collector of the port where such goods are to be landed under a penalty of twentyfive dollars, to be recovered from the master, and the forfeiture of the goods so landed, in each and every case.

14. In all cases the person or persons applying for permit to land good or merchandize, shall be held for the amount of duties on goods or merchandize landed under

R. 8
said permit. No goods or merchandize shall be landed from any vessel before the hours of six o'clock in the morning nor after six, past meridian, under a fine of twenty dollars recoverable from the master, and the forfeiture of the goods so landed in each and every case.

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15. No trade shall be made in the harbors of this Republic between foreigners and foreigners, nor between foreigners and citizens, without accounting to the Collector of the port where such trade has been made, for the duties arising on the goods so traded; any master, supercargo, or others so offending, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars for each offence. The Collector may, whenever he shall deem it to be necessary for the security of the revenue, put an inspector of the customs on board any vessel, to remain on board until such vessel shall have cleared at the Custom House, and if any master shall refuse to receive an inspector of the customs on board, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars.

16. If any vessel, which shall have arrived within the limits of any port of entry of this Republic, from any foreign place shall depart, or attempt to depart therefrom after having remained in port twenty-four hours, before report of entry shall have been made by the master of such vessel shall forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred dollars; any Collector or other officer of the customs, or the commander of any commissioned vessel of this Republic, may arrest and bring back, or caused to be arrested and brought back such vessel to the port whence she sailed, to be proceeded against according to law. But if it shall be made to appear by the oath of the master, or person next in command, or other sufficient proof to the satisfaction of the Collector, or to the satisfaction of the Court, in which the prosecution for such penalty may be had that the departure, or attempt to depart, was occasioned by distress of weather, pursuit, or duress of enemies, or other necessity, the penalty shall not be incurred.

ARTICLE V.

OF DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

REG. 1
Regular duty.....
Extra duty on consignments—verification of invoices or cost of goods
method of securing duties on direct consignments—time allowed
for payment of duties—assessments of duties on goods landed from

| | |
|---|---|
| transient traders..... | 2 |
| Special duty..... | 3 |
| Exceptions in favor of immigrants &c..... | 4 |
| Anchorage and light duty..... | 5 |

1. The regular impost or customs on goods, wares or merchandize, brought into this Republic, shall be six per centum, subject however, to such exceptions as are provided in the following section.

2. In cases of direct consignment from abroad to citizens of this Republic, or other persons residing within the jurisdiction of the same, the duties shall be assessed on the prime cost, with an additional charge to the regular impost or custom, of two per centum on the amount of importations, to be called an extra duty, shall be clearly distinguished, and kept distinct by the Collector, in a book to be kept for the purpose, in such manner, as may be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The citizens of the Republic, or other persons residing within the same, who may receive direct consignments from abroad, shall, on presenting their invoices on which duties are to be assessed, make oath that such invoices invoice or presented, exhibit the prime cost of all goods and merchandize therein named, and the duties shall be assessed on the amounts of each invoice. The method of securing duties on direct importations, shall be the same as is directed in the case of masters of foreign vessels in the eleventh section of the fourth Article of this Act—excepting nevertheless, that when the duties shall amount to one hundred dollars, twenty days shall be allowed for the payment of the same; when to two hundred dollars, forty days shall be allowed, and when over two hundred dollars, sixty days shall be allowed. The Collector retaining the bond or other deposit for the faithful payment of the same. The actual sales by all masters, or supercargoes of transient vessels, shall be the base of assessment of the duties to paid by them.

3. But all machinery, scientific apparatus, books, horticultural and agricultural implements, seeds and specimens, materials of every description to be used for school-houses or colleges, book-cases, desks, seats for the use of schools—donations of ready made clothing or materials for clothing, when gratuitously distributed, common house-furniture, and utensils for charitable institutions of learning, shall be admitted free of duty. But should any of the articles excepted from duty under this section, be fraudlently brought into this Republic; or should all or any part of the same having been brought into this Republic under this excepting provision, be otherwise appropriated or applied, than as above stated, then and in that case, the same shall be subject to the like duty as articles of a similar kind when brought in for trade: and any person or persons who shall be proven guilty of any such tortuous application of the said excepted articles, or any per

tion thereof, without first giving notice to the Collector and paying the regular duties, shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than fifty, nor more than two hundred dollars, to be levied and collected under authority of any court of competent jurisdiction, and all the articles thus fraudulently and tortuously applied shall be forfeited to this Republic.

4. All foreign vessels coming to anchor in any port, or harbor of this Republic, shall pay an anchorage and light house duty of fifteen dollars; vessels shall be compelled to pay light house duty at ports only, where there is a light established and kept up; and when a vessel has paid the lawful anchorage at any one port, she shall not be held liable to pay such anchorage at any other port of the Republic during the same voyage.



ARTICLE VI.

OF THE CASES IN WHICH DRAWBACKS SHALL BE ALLOWED

Goods, how landed marked and numbered; and reshipped within three years

SECTION 1. Masters, supercargoes or others, who may wish to land and leave goods or merchandize in any of the ports of entry of the Republic, for sale or storage, shall be permitted to do so under the following regulations: The Collector, or his deputy, shall personally superintend the landing of all such goods, mark or otherwise note the packages, and record in a book the marks and contents of each package, as soon as said goods or merchandize are landed; the Collector shall immediately assess the duties arising on said goods or merchandize, which full amount of duties shall be paid or secured by bond as specified in the eleventh section of the fourth article of this Act, on all articles thus landed,—ardent spirits &c., mentioned in the third article of this Act excepted;—Provided however, that if the said articles are unsold, and re-shipped in the same unbroken packages, and sent beyond the limits of the Republic within three years from the date of the landing; the Collector shall give a certificate to the shipper certifying the same, which certificate when countersigned by the Treasurer or Sub-Treasurer, shall entitle the shipper to receive back three fifths of the duties paid on the goods or merchandize so shipped beyond the limits of the Republic. The Collector shall be entitled to a fee of one dollar and fifty cents per diem for all services rendered under the provisions of this section.

ARTICLE VII.

OF FOREIGN SEAMEN AND PASSENGERS.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| None of the crew of a vessel to be discharged and left on shore except by permission of the local authorities | 1 |
| Deserters from foreign vessels, how to be arrested | 2 |
| Deserters having committed crime | 3 |
| Masters taking passengers beyond the limits of the Republic without passport subject to fine | 4 |
| Method of obtaining Passport | 5 |

1. None of a vessel's crew shall be discharged and left on shore without the permission of the local authorities, under a penalty of two hundred dollars; and such permission shall not be granted unless the party to be discharged, shall receive at least two months pay at the time of his discharge.

2. On the application of a master of any foreign vessel for the restoration of a seaman deserting, made in writing, stating that the person therein named, has deserted from his vessel, and on proof by the exhibition of the ship's roll, or other official document, that such person belonged at the time of desertion, to the crew of such vessel, any judge or other officer having competent power to issue a warrant, may cause such person to be arrested on examination, and if the facts stated are found to be true, such person, not being a citizen of Liberia, shall be delivered up to such master on payment of the established fees.

3. If such deserter shall have committed any crime or offence, his surrender may be delayed until the tribunal before which the case shall be depending, or may be cognizable, shall have pronounced its sentence, and such sentence have been put into effect.

4. Masters of vessels are prohibited from taking on board or giving passage to any individual residing within this Republic without a passport from the Secretary of State unless to be landed within the Republic, under a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars.

5. Any person applying for a passport shall give satisfactory proof to the Secretary of State, that ten days previous notice in some public manner has been given by him of his intention to depart the Republic; whereupon the Secretary shall grant a passport on the payment of fifty cents, provided no legal objection be interposed.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF LICENSES, COMMISSION, RETAIL, &c. &c.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Unlawful to trade without license—price of do..... | 1 |
| Exception to this..... | 2 |
| Method of obtaining license..... | 3 |

1. It shall be unlawful for any citizen, or other person within this Republic, to sell or barter any goods, merchandize, or vendible property, or transact business for any foreign importer merchant, master, supercargo or owner, on commission, without first having obtained a commission merchant's license, for which he shall pay a tax of fifteen dollars per annum: nor shall any licensed commission merchant, as such, either by himself or another, deal, transact business, or barter, other than in the legal wholesale way: and each retailer shall pay a tax of twelve dollars per annum.

In no case shall a license comprehend more than one place of business: any person or persons, however, may obtain special license for as many places as he or they may choose. Any person or persons wishing to carry on the business of auctioneer, shall pay a tax of sixteen dollars per annum. No person or persons whatsoever, within this Republic, shall engage in commission or auction business, or trade or traffick by selling goods or merchandize for gain, in any way or manner, without first complying with the above provisions, under a penalty of fifty dollars for the first offence, and for the second, double the amount.

2. Nothing in the preceding section shall prevent any laborer or mechanic, from exchanging other 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, ivory or other produce, provided always, such exchanges shall be made at the home of the individual making them, or with the merchant at his store.

3. The method of obtaining license under the provisions of this Article, shall be by presenting to the clerk of the court of Quarter Sessions, the receipt of the Treasurer for the amount required as heretofore specified, whereupon the clerk aforesaid shall grant the license applied and paid for. The Clerk shall record all licenses issued by him, and shall receive as his fee for each license, the sum of fifty cents to be paid by person or persons obtaining license. All licenses shall be granted for one year,—to expire on the 30th day

of September in each year ;—nevertheless, should any person or persons apply for license after the commencement of the fiscal year, which is understood to commence on the first of October ; such person or persons so applying, shall be required to pay only a just ratio of the unexpired term of one year.

4. Any person or persons accused of receiving goods, wares, or merchandize in the jurisdiction of this Republic, on which the tariff duties have not been paid ; or in other words, smuggling into the Republic, any goods, or articles chargeable with duties, shall be subject to have the said articles seized by the Collector ; and on conviction thereof the same shall be sold for the benefit of the Republic : and the person or persons, in whose possession such goods, or articles may be found, knowing the same to have been smuggled in to the Republic, shall forfeit and pay four-fold the value of the articles so smuggled, or be committed to the common jail, there to be kept in close confinement until the said penalty, with cost of collection shall be paid.

ARTICLE IX.

OF DUTIES COMMON TO OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Duties of Officers—Secretary of the Treasury, Collector, Wharfinger and Attorney General 1 to..... | 5 |
| Penalties for forcibly resisting an officer in the discharge of his duty | 4 |
| Penalties for failing to collect money when due..... | 6 |
| Dues to government in what to be paid. Penalties and pains for violating this act..... | 8 11 |

1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to see that the Navigation, Commerce, and Revenue laws, are faithfully and promptly executed. He shall under the direction of the President of the Republic, superintend the collection of the revenue arising from imposts, licenses &c. He shall issue all orders necessary to be given to the officers, who may be engaged in collecting the revenue ; he may from time to time, require all Collectors to render in their accounts, and demand from them, and all other persons engaged in the revenue service, all such information, touching the revenue, as may be deemed desirable for the department to have, and make any arrangements compatible with the spirit of this Act ;

2. It shall be the duty of the Collectors of Customs to board every foreign vessel anchoring within the limits of their ports, before such vessel has had any communication with the shore, and on failure thereof, shall pay the sum of

ten dollars. They shall furnish the master or other person in charge of such vessel, with a copy of the port-regulations, for which he shall receive twenty-five cents; and for every neglect to furnish said port regulations, they shall pay the sum of five dollars. They shall suffer no vessel to unlade any part of her cargo, unauthorized by permit, under the penalty of twenty-five dollars. They shall keep in a book to be provided for that purpose, an accurate account of the arrival and departure of all vessels, and all passengers coming to, or going from their respective ports:—and the imports and exports received or shipped away. It shall also be their duty to enforce the collection of duties before the departure of any vessel from which sums may be claimed; and for every neglect, they shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars. They shall make a full return of all the matters and things connected with their office at the close of each quarter, and pay over to the Treasurer, all and whatsoever monies may have come into their hands, and in case of failing to make a report, they shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five dollars. The Collectors of Customs shall be allowed a commission of eight per centum on the revenue collected by them.

3. It shall be the special duty of the Attorney General to see that the license law as specified in the 8th Article of this Act, is strictly observed. Should he fail to prosecute any person or persons to his knowledge violating the provisions of said law, he shall for each case, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars.

4. If any person shall forcibly resist, prevent, or impede any officer of the customs or revenue service, or any person assisting him in the execution of his duty, he shall for every offense be fined in a sum of not less than fifty dollars.

5. In all cases where an officer or other person, charged with the collection of money due the Republic, shall fail through neglect, to accomplish the same, execution shall be issued against him and his sureties immediately; and all officers neglecting or refusing to pay over monies collected on account of the Republic, shall be subject to a summary process for the recovery of double the amount claimed at his hands, to be levied on any goods or property, belonging to him.

6. Should any master, supercargo, or other person in command of any foreign vessel, refuse to pay the established dues authorized to be collected from said vessel, or refuse to pay any fine which may be imposed on him by due course of law, for any infraction of the revenue laws of this Republic, the vessel, or the vessel and cargo, where the cargo is owned by, or consigned to said master, supercargo or other person in command of said vessel shall be liable for the same; and the Collector, Marshal, or other officer whose duty it may be to collect such dues or fines, shall proceed to sell so much of

the same, or any part thereof, as may be necessary to satisfy the amount of such dues or fines, including any additional expense which may be incurred in making such sale.

7. It shall be the duty of the officers of the Customs or any commander of any commissioned vessel of this Republic, to arrest, or cause to be arrested and brought to any convenient port of entry, any vessels found upon the Liberian coast contravening this Act.

8. All penalties and forfeitures, which may be incurred for offences against this Act, shall be sued for, and recovered with cost of suit in the name of the Republic of Liberia. All vessels and goods which shall so become forfeited, shall be seized, libelled, and prosecuted in the proper court having cognizance thereof; such court, shall cause fifteen days' notice to be given of such seizure and libel, with the order of the court thereon, setting forth the time and place appointed for trial, to be inserted in some newspaper published near the place of seizure, of such there be, and also by posting up the same in the most public manner for fifteen days, at, or near the place of trial. If no person shall appear to claim such vessel or goods within that time, she or they shall be adjudged forfeited; but if any person shall, before such judgment, appear and claim—the court shall hear and determine the case according to law.

On the prayer of a claimant, that such vessel or goods, or any part thereof, may be delivered to him, the court shall appoint three proper persons to appraise such vessel or goods, who shall be sworn in open court for the faithful discharge of their duty; such appraisement shall be made at the expense of the claimant, and on return thereof, if he shall with one or more sureties, approved by the court, execute a bond in the usual form to the Republic of Liberia, for the payment of a sum equal to that, at which such vessels or goods, to be delivered to him, are appraised, and such bond shall be lodged with the clerk of the court, said goods or vessel may be delivered to him; and if judgment be for the claimant, the bond shall be canceled,—but if against him as to the whole, or any part of such vessel or goods, and he shall not within twenty days thereafter, pay into the Treasury of the Republic, the appraised value of the portion condemned with costs, the bond shall be put in suit.

If, in any prosecution on account of the seizure of any vessel or goods, judgment shall be given for the claimant, it shall appear to the court before which such prosecution may be had, that there was reasonable cause of seizure, such court shall cause a proper entry to be made thereof and the claimant shall not be entitled to costs, nor shall the person who made the seizure or the prosecutor, be liable to action, suit, or judgment on account of such seizure, or prosecution; but such vessel or goods, shall be forthwith, after judgment, re-

turned to the claimant or his agent.

9. No action or prosecution shall be maintained in any case, unless it be commenced within three years next after the penalty of forfeiture was incurred. If any officer entitled to a share of such penalty of forfeiture, be necessary as a witness on the trial therefore, he may be a witness; but shall not in such case be entitled to, nor receive any part thereof, but the part to which he otherwise would have been entitled, shall accrue to the Republic.

10. The fees for the several duties and services to be performed under the third and fourth Articles of this Act as relate to Customs, shall be as follows:—For endorsed manifest and clearance for a Liberian vessel bound coast-wise, twenty-five cents, if less than fifty tons, and if above fifty tons, fifty cents; for receiving a certificate manifest, and granting a permit to unload at a port of delivery, twenty-five cents, if less than fifty tons, and if above fifty tons, fifty cents; for permit from the Collector, to land goods beyond the limits of a port of delivery, fifty cents; for permit to citizens to land goods consigned to them from a foreign vessel, twenty-five cents for each permit; for a clearance for a foreign vessel and certificate to consul, fifty cents; for inspector who may be placed on board any vessel by the Collector, one dollar and fifty cents a day.

11. All sums of monyes which become due to the Republic under this Act, or by any other means, shall be paid in silver or gold coin at the established value of such coin in the Republic, or in such notes or bills of credit, as may be issued under the authority, and on the responsibility of the Republic; and all payments by the Government, shall be made in the same medium.

ARTICLE. X.

FIXING THE CURRENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SUB TREASURERS IN THE COUNTIES OF GRAND BASSA AND SINOE AND A TREASURY OF THE REPUBLIC TO RESIDE AT MONROVIA.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Secretary of Treasury authorized to procure engraved bills..... | 1 |
| Mode of authenticating bills or notes..... | 2 |
| When lawful..... | 3 |
| Authority to issue..... | 4 |
| Appointment of Sub-Treasurers and their pay..... | 5 |
| Do of Treasurer..... | 6 |

WHEREAS, it would be a great inconvenience to the people of this Republic, to be deprived of an easy circulating medium, and whereas a paper currency, unless based upon specie, and redeemable at par on demand, at the Treasurer depart-

ment, would be detrimental to the interest of the government, and citizens at large.—Therefore ;—It is Enacted.

1. That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and requested with the advice of the President to procure as early as practicable for the use of the Government a set of Engraved plates for striking off Engraved bills of five denominations : Ten, Five, Three and one dollars and fifty cents to be used as a paper currency in the Republic, and to obtain suitable paper for the said bills.

2. It is further Enacted.—That the face of said Plates be so engraved as to make the following impressions on the bills stricken off i. e. in the centre and on the upper part of the bill a frontispiece representing a Palm tree with a spade standing at its base and a plough. In the back ground the ocean with a ship under sail ; above the ship a dove on the wing with one open scroll in its mouth ; over the frontispiece the words in large capital letters "THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA," on the left hand opposite the frontispiece (No) or number ; across the two ends the denomination of the bill ; coming immediately under the frontispiece the words on demand at the Treasury Department of the Republic of Liberia will pay to bearer in Gold or Silver Coin. Then a denomination of the bill, and then the name of Monrovia, then the figures 185— the date of said bills. Below and near the bottom of the bill and near the left hand corner—the words Secretary of the Treasury—near the right hand corner and, opposite the words Secretary of the Treasury, the word President, on the Fifty cents bill opposite the frontispiece on the right hand be capital letter A.

3. And further, when bills thus specified are properly executed and signed by the Secretary of the Treasury and the President, they shall be the lawful paper currency of the Republic ; any law conflicting with the same, be and the same is hereby repealed.

4. And further—That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and requested to call in all bills or notes now in circulation, and issue others in their place to the amount of eight thousand dollars.

5. That the President be authorized, and he is hereby authorized to appoint Sub-Treasurers in the Counties of Grand Bassa and Sinoe ; said Sub-Treasurers to receive a compensation of three per centum for all monies received and paid out by them respectively.

6. That the President be, and he is hereby authorized with the advice of the Senate, to appoint a Treasurer for the Republic, who shall reside in Monrovia, and whose duty it shall be, to receive and keep all public monies arising from imposts or otherwise ; and shall account quarterly of all his doings, and receive a compensation of three per centum, on all monies deposited in his hands, and paid out by him.

ARTICLE XI.

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED AN ACT REGULATING NAVIGATION, COMMERCE AND REVENUE.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

1. That from and after the passage of this Act so much of the first section of the 1st Article of the above mentioned Act as read “and all such vessels, shall pay a tax of fifty cents a ton per annum,” be so amended as to read, and all such vessels shall pay a tax of seventy five cents a ton per annum.

2. It is further enacted—That so much of the first section of the above named Act as reads, “he shall pay annually, to expire on the 30th of September in each year, the sum of Fifteen dollars,” be and the same is hereby repealed. Nothing is to be construed however to prevent licenses being obtained.

3. That so much of the fifth Article, section fourth of the above named Act as reads: “There shall be levied, collected, and paid an additional duty of six per centum on the articles next herein-after mentioned;—that is, on Fannels and Woolen clothing, Boots, Shoes, Bonnets, Silks, Ribbands, Silk Umbrellas, Gold and Silver wares, and Furniture,—be and the same is hereby repealed.

4. It is further enacted— That the third section of the ninth Article of the forenamed Act be and the same is hereby repealed;—And that the Collector of each port or harbor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to place on board every foreign vessel coming to anchor in any port or harbour of this Republic an Inspector, whose duty it shall be to remain on board such vessel during her stay in that port or harbor—and that it shall be the duty of such inspector to superintend the landing of all goods, wares and merchandize: he shall note the marks, numbers, weights or measures as the case may be: the contents of all Casks, Bales, Bundles, Crates, and all kinds of packages, boxes, trunks &c, except where there is freight, and the master or supercargo cannot give the contents: in that case the packages shall be noted and the contents made known to the Collector, or Inspector by the consignee, and he shall deliver a correct account of all goods, wares and merchandize, &c, &c, landed under his supervision, to the Collector, mi-

mediately on leaving such vessel or vessels. He shall not allow any goods, wares, merchandize, &c, &c, to be landed from any vessel or vessels in the port or harbor until the master or supercargo of such vessel shall have obtained a permit from the Collector:—And further, every Inspector shall receive for his services fifty cents per diem, from the Government, and fifty cents additional per diem, and his board to be paid by the master or supercargo of said vessel:—and that this amount per diem shall be paid by the master or supercargo to the Collector before his clearance is obtained from the Custom House.

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ARTICLE XII-

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT REGULATING NAVIGATION, COMMERCE AND REVENUE."

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

1. That from and after the First day of May 1856, after the passage of this act, there shall be collected a duty of *one dollar* per gallon on all ardent spirits, wines, claret, cordials and malt liquor landed in this Republic, and all such articles as shall be landed in this Republic, and all such articles shall be landed under the immediate observation of the Collector, or his deputy, and by him guarded, or the quantity ascertained, on the spot, and the amount of duties thereon paid before it goes out of the hands of the Collector.

2. It is further enacted—That the 3rd section of the 5th Article, and so much of the 8th Article of the Navigation, Commerce and Revenue law as relates to License and the retailing of ardent spirits, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

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JUDICIARY.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE JUDICIARY, AND FIXING THE POWERS COMMON TO THE SEVERAL COURTS.

OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Powers of Justices of the peace—do. of Constables..... | 1 |
| Immediate execution of judgment by Justice's court—how arrested.. | 2 |
| Appointment of Justices to visit New Georgia, their pay &c..... | 4 |
| Juries, new trials, records and issuing commission to take testimony do not appertain to Justices' courts..... | 5 |
| When Justices may issue a writ of arrest..... | 6 |
| Courts of record have concurrent jurisdiction with Justices; in what case | 7 |
| Appeals from Justices' courts—and how tried in upper court..... | 8 |

Section 1st It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

That all persons who may be commissioned as Justices of the Peace shall be sworn to do the duties of said office according to law; they shall be conservators of the public peace; shall have power in the name of the Republic of Liberia to issue warrants, to command the seizure and arrest of any felon or violator of the public peace, and commit him, her or them to jail, until legal action can be had in the premises. Unless the offence is capital, if the accused give good and sufficient security to abide his, her, or their trial at the next court having cognizance of the offence, they shall not be imprisoned. All precepts issued by any Justice of the Peace, shall be signed with his proper name as Justice of the peace.

Any Justice of the Peace shall have jurisdiction out of court, without a jury, to try all actions for debt not above thirty dollars; except specific performance, injunction, and ejection, and actions for injuries to the reputation, or domestic relations;—all petty infractions of the peace where the fine is not more than ten dollars: all cases of petty larceny, all actions of trover, trespass, detinue &c, where the amount in litigation is not more than ten dollars; shall administer such oaths as are required; shall issue process for witness in any case pending before him; shall arrest and pacify any, and all who go about to break the peace in his presence, and may demand the help of others: shall have power to preserve order in his court, and may impose fines not exceeding five dollars, for contempt, and hold the person offending under arrest during the sitting of the court.

Constables as the ministerial officers of the Justice's Court, shall execute all processes issued by a Justice of the Peace; shall without warrant suppress any riot or infraction of the peace in his presence, shall arrest and bring to justice, all felons and violent offenders against the peace, without a warrant when he has not time to procure one.

2. On all judgments rendered in a Justice's Court, when

required by defendant, and sufficient surety 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 on judgments not so rendered, shall be null and void; but in all cases, either party shall have the privilege for an appeal to the ensuing monthly court, by paying the costs, and giving security, sufficient to indemnify his opponent for any loss he may sustain, in case he fails to prosecute his appeal to effect.

3. The President is hereby authorized to instruct one of the Justices from either of the towns or villages in Montserrado County, to visit the settlements of New Georgia, once in two weeks, to assist the Magistrates of New Georgia in the determination of such cases either of a civil or criminal character, as may from time to time be brought under the notice of Justices there; That it be left to the discretion of the President whether he will fix any particular day for the session of said Justice's Court in said settlement of New Georgia or whether he will send said Justice by notification, or whether he will assign it as the exclusive duty of any particular Magistrate; That nothing in the foregoing section shall be construed to prevent the resident Magistrates or Justices of new Georgia, from arresting offenders against the laws of this Republic, or of suppressing disturbers of the public peace; in such cases the said Magistrates shall have all the authority which they have hitherto possessed.

The President is hereby authorized to pay from the public Treasury the Justices so sent to New Georgia for each and every trip so made, the fee regularly allowed by law: and the Magistrates of New Georgia shall be allowed in all cases which they may be lawfully engaged in determining the same fees they are now entitled to.

5. Nothing that relates to juries, new trials and records shall apply to cases tried before Justices of the Peace. Issuing commissions, on petition, testimony without the Republic, shall not extend to Justice of the Peace; but either party may petition

the court to which an appeal from a Justice lies, for a commission; and such court may, if they think proper, issue a commission, and stay the proceedings of the Justice until it can be executed. Writs of execution, may be issued by a Justice of the Peace, returnable before a superior court; and such court or any Judge thereof, shall have jurisdiction to proceed according to law in such cases made and provided.

6. No Justice of the peace, shall have authority to issue a writ of arrest against a defendant in an action, as such, or a writ of execution containing a clause of arrest, except writs of execution issued under the last section, and agreeably to its provisions. A Justice of the Peace shall have power as a court, to punish those who obstruct the execution of writs issued by him, or who disobey his summons, or refuse to perform the duties for the performance of which they are summoned; in all such cases, he may issue writs of arrest, and all persons imprisoned by him, may, in the discretion of any court or Judge, be discharged upon a writ of *habeas corpus*.

7. Courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction with Justice of the Peace, in all actions for personal injuries, in which a Justice of the Peace has jurisdiction. If an action, not for personal injury, be brought into a court, which ought to have been brought before a justice, the court shall, if the Plaintiff establish a claim, deduct from the debt or damages, the whole costs incurred by the defendant, and give judgment for the balance, without any costs; or if the costs of the defendant, equal or exceed the debt or damages, shall give judgment for the defendant, either without costs, or for the excess of his costs, as the case may require. If the plaintiff fail, the court shall give judgment for the defendant for full costs.

8. An appeal shall lie from every decision of a Justice of the Peace, to the most inferior court having jurisdiction at the place, at which such Justice lives, or to such other court as may be designated for that purpose by law. No judgment of a justice of the Peace shall be set aside for error in form; but all appeals from Justices, shall be taken up by the court to which they are made anew, and upon the merits, of the case, and such judgment given as the Justice ought to have given.

ARTICLE II.

OF THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT

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|---|-----------|
| How composed—power—prerogative—have record of wills—are courts of record—Sheriffs are the ministerial officers..... | SEC. 1 |
| Duties of the Registers..... | 2 |

Duties of Chairmen—when absent, who shall discharge them—time of meeting 3

1 The Courts of Monthly Sessions now established in each of the counties of this Republic, shall henceforth be composed of a Chairman and two Justices of the Peace; and shall have original jurisdiction in all cases of debt of more than thirty dollars, and not more than two hundred dollars, in all cases of misdemeanor equal to petit larceny, in all actions of trespass, trover, slander, detinue, ejectment, &c., where the amount in litigation is not more than \$ 20, nor less than \$ 10; all infractions of the peace where the fine is more than \$ 10, and not less than \$ 20, and shall be competent to judge both the law and the facts in such cases. Said courts shall have inquisitional power to judicially examine all cases of criminals committed by Justices of the Peace, examining the evidence only on the side of the State; in all cases where the evidence is not sufficient to put the person accused on his trial, may discharge the suspected person, and where evidence appears, may allow the suspected party to give good and sufficient security for his or her appearance at the Court of Quarter Sessions, to abide his or her trial. Said court, shall have power to punish for contempt in a fine of not more than twenty dollars, and imprisonment during its sitting, and shall further have the management and care of the estates of orphans not otherwise provided for; and shall be a court of probate; and said probate court shall cause the probate of any will, or testamentary paper that shall possess the features of one;—shall have a record of wills proven in that court. Contested wills shall be sent to the Court of Quarter Sessions to be tried by jury, upon its merits, and by them either rejected, set aside, or quashed, or approved: and if rejected, the same may be removed by appeal to the Supreme Court on petition made by any person aggrieved, according to the laws which relate to appeals; and if found valid, shall be sent back to the probate court to be placed on its records. Said court shall grant letters of administration and shall have all the power necessary to settle estates; and to do all other matters and things of a court of probate.

The clerk of the said monthly court shall keep a record of all matters and things ordered and transacted by said court in a book or books provided for that purpose; note or 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; he shall issue leading processes, writs and subpoenas signed with his own name as clerk, and directed according to law: shall record all issues and returns made by the officer to whom they were directed, he shall summon six days before the term of each session, the Justices

who are to be associated with the Chairman, and the Justices shall be summoned in rotation. The Sheriff of the county shall be the ministerial officer of the said court; he shall serve all writs, take bail, and carry the judgment of court into execution.

2. 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 Republic 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 Secretary of State for preservation among the archives of the Republic.

3. 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 whenever a vacancy shall happen upon the bench of the Monthly 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.

The Monthly Court for the County of Montserrado shall meet on the first Monday in every month; for the County of Grand Bassa, the third Monday in every month, and for the County of Sinoe the second Monday in every month.

ARTICLE III.

TO PREVENT FRAUD IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INTESTATE AND OTHER ESTATES.

| | |
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| Persons interfering with intestate estates render themselves liable..... | SEC. 1 |
| Probate courts to appoint administrators—duty and compensation..... | 2 |
| Estates of Chairmen and Clerks Probate courts—mal-administration of administrators how punished..... | 4 6 |

1. 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) un

less 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 all the natural or legal heirs to such estate.

2. 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:—He shall make a correct statement of all and singular the property and effects of the deceased,—whatever thereof is 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: 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 securities for the payment thereof: he shall make returns to the next term of the court of his, 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 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, 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 for sale, as above directed to be done by the court of which he is Chairman.

3. That all estates on which letters of administration have been granted, shall be settled up, and the accounts closed in one year from date of the commission of administration: nevertheless should it be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Probate Court that, owing to there being foreign creditors or debtors, or to any other circumstance, said estate could not be closed in one year without detriment and damage to those concerned, said court shall be competent to grant a longer term, not exceeding six months.

4. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the several Probate Courts, to see that the Clerks of the Courts keep a roll of all letters of administration which shall have been granted by said courts with the date, names of the grantees, and his or their sureties annexed. They shall cause the several Clerks once in every three months to post up one week eb

fore the first day of the term of the Court in some conspicuous place, a notification, requiring all administrators to appear before the ensuing term of said court to give an account of their doings; and should it appear to said court that any administrator or administrators are acting negligently, or dishonestly; or that the parties concerned in said estate are likely to be damaged by the longer continuance of the management of said estate in the hand of said administrator or administrators, said court shall be competent to revoke the commission, and appoint others in his or their place, and shall order said delinquent administrator or administrators to deliver up to his or their successor or successors, all and every species of property, books, papers, documents, (which may have come into his or their hands,) and copy of all his or their proceedings in the premises without delay. In all such cases the bond of said delinquent administrator, or administrators shall be retained in court, until satisfaction shall have been given to all concerned of his or their doings while acting in the premises.

5. In all cases where any administrator or administrators shall have failed to perform his or their duty in such a manner as to have caused loss, detriment, or damage, to any party, it shall be at the option of any person so sustaining loss, detriment or damage, to enter suit upon the bond in any court competent to try the same, and the process of trial and judgment shall be the same as in an action for debt, excepting that when the assets of the principal shall not be sufficient to make good the loss with the cost of the suit, the sureties shall be liable.

6. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the several Probate Courts directly after the publication of this Act, to require that all administrators whose commission of administration is of an older date than one year, to settle up and close said estates in three months on pain of forfeiting their bond, unless the qualifying circumstances mentioned in the third section of this Act, shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the court, when a longer time may be allowed according to the provisions of said third section.

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ARTICLE IV.

OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AND ADMIRALTY.

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| Jurisdiction and powers—have jurisdiction in cases of Admiralty..... | SEC. 1 |
| Piracy and of violation of the Revenue laws..... | 2 |
| Method of proceedings..... | 3 |

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| Distribution of shares in cases of seizure..... | 4 |
| When in cases of seizure there is a right to a common law remedy..... | 5 |
| Meeting of the courts..... | 6 |
| Sheriff's coroner's and Marshall's, sales..... | 7 |
| Disputed titles to real estate..... | 8 |
| Appeals from said courts..... | 9 |
| Claims for land from government how disposed of..... | 10 |

The Courts of Quarter Sessions now established in each county in this Republic shall have one Judge, and shall have trial of prisoners sent from the Monthly Court, and all presentments or indictments, which may be found by the Grand Jury, and shall have power to empannel both grand and petit jury for that purpose; shall have original jurisdiction in all cases of debt when the amount is more than two hundred dollars, in all cases of crime and misdemeanor, above the degree of petit larceny, in all infractions of the peace, when the fine is more than twenty dollars, in all cases of wrong by whatever name called, when the damage claimed is more than twenty dollars, and shall have appellate jurisdiction in all cases going up from the Monthly Court: and shall have power to punish for contempt while sitting in a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, and imprisonment during the sitting of said court. The Sheriff of the county shall be the ministerial officer of said court while transacting the judicial business of the county; he shall serve all writs, make escorts, summon and return juries, take bail, and carry the judgment of the court into execution. The Judge of said Quarterly Court may continue his session two weeks, unless business be sooner dispatched. Said court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases of admiralty, and maritime jurisdiction, of seizure made under the Navigation, Commerce, and Revenue laws of this Republic, and seizures made under any laws of this Republic; in all cases where an alien sues for tort or wrong committed in violation of the law of nations, or any violation of any treaty; in all crimes committed on the high seas; and exercise jurisdiction over all piracies as so declared by, and existing at this time under the law of nations, or which are declared and held to be piracies under the Constitution and several Acts of the Legislature; in all cases of penalties and forfeitures under the aforesaid maritime laws, and in all other matters and things properly belonging to a Court of Admiralty.

In the case of a vessel or vessels, the Judge of the Admiralty Court shall have power to name a day when the said court shall hold its session to adjudicate the case, giving sufficient time, so that all parties concerned, may receive due notice of the trial according to law. Appeals may be had to the Supreme Court. The ministerial officer in the admiralty jurisdiction of said court, shall be the Marshall or his

deputy, who shall execute all lawful precepts directed to him, shall attend the Admiralty Court while sitting, have power to command the necessary assistance in the execution of his duty; he shall make true returns of all precepts directed to him, shall have custody of all vessels and goods seized by any officer of the revenue, and do all other things proper to be done by the Marshall. The clerk of the said court of Quarter Sessions shall issue leading process, writs and subpoenas, signed with his own name as clerk, shall record all matters and things ordered and done by said court: he shall record all issues, and returns of officers; take minutes of all trials of cases in said court, and all other matters and things, properly a subject of record in such courts: shall issue all processes, enter and record all orders, decrees, judgments, and proceedings, of the Court of admiralty; shall issue licenses, and do all other matters and things proper for a clerk of said court; and when any judge is interested in any cause coming on in the county of which he is judge, the judge of the next nearest county shall be notified to attend said court, and shall preside in all such cases in which the judge of said court is interested; and he shall receive for his services, two dollars a day while sitting, and ten cents a mile for necessary traveling.

2. The proceedings in said court for the trial of all such offenders as may be found, or brought within the limits of the Republic of Liberia, and all other proceedings shall be in accordance with the laws in such cases made and provided.

3. In cases where seizures shall be made by persons not entitled by law to any share, the said court shall have power in its discretion to award such share or proportion as may be deemed proper to such person or persons making such seizure—*Provided*, that in such distribution the Republic of Liberia shall be entitled to such share as is by said laws awarded; and *provided further* that in no case whatever, shall the Judge of said court be entitled to any such prize money.

4. The jurisdiction of said court shall be, and the same is hereby extended to all cases of fraud, or attempts at fraud upon the Revenue laws of said Republic, and it shall decree such penalties, forfeitures or confiscations, as are provided in the several Acts of the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia concerning the revenue thereof.

5. The said court shall have exclusive cognizance of all civil causes of Admiralty and maritime jurisdiction including all seizures under the laws of impost, navigation or trade of said Republic, where the seizures are made on tide waters which are navigable from the sea by vessels of ten, or more tons burthen within the said Republic, as well as upon the high sea—saving to suitors in all cases the right

of a common law remedy, where the common law is competent to give it—and shall also have exclusive original cognizance of all seizures on land or water as aforesaid made, and of all suits for penalties and forfeitures incurred under the laws of said Republic. Said court shall have power from time to time to alter and amend its rules of practice, as may be proper for the orderly transaction of its business.

9. The said court shall be held in the County of Montserado, on the second Monday in March, June, September and December, in every year; and in the County of Grand Bassa, on the fourth Monday of the above named months in every year: and in the County of Sinoe on the first Monday in February, May, August, and November in each year.

7. That in all cases of Sheriff's or Marshall's sale where there are, or may be disputes about the distribution of the moneys arising therefrom, the courts of Common Pleas and the Supreme Court of this Republic, are hereby declared to have full power and authority to hear and determine all such cases according to law and equity: Provided, where any of the persons interested in such distributions, shall not appear the courts shall cause notice to be given them, either personally, or by such advertisements as they may deem proper, prior to making the decision.

8. That in all cases of disputes as to the validity of title to real estates, where it appears fraud or collusion has been attempted or practised, by a fraudulent double conveyance of the same premises, said court shall have the power to determine the same according to law and equity, and to deliver an equitable award in the case, and to relieve the innocent and oppressed.

9. That in all cases which shall be decided by the court of Common Pleas with or without the intervention of a jury, if any person or persons shall consider him, her, or themselves aggrieved by such decision, they may appeal to the Supreme Court within twenty days after such decision, which appeal shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as in other cases of appeals; and the said Judges of said Supreme Court, are hereby authorized to affirm or reverse the decision of said court of common Pleas, and award such other decision as in their opinion will best conduce to the ends of justice and equity.

10. And it is hereby declared to be the duty of the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas, and they are hereby authorized to hear and determine all claims for land from the government, and said Judges are authorized when the case shall require it, to issue a writ of *venire facias* to try and determine the case according to law and fact.

11. Defendant or defendants who shall have been summoned fifteen days before the first day of the court to which a return is to be made, shall be deemed to have been legally

summoned, and be compelled to answer the plaintiff, provided the plaintiff shall have filed his complaint in the clerk's office at least fifteen days before the session of the court. Nevertheless, when the peculiar circumstances of the case render it necessary, the court may, in its discretion, grant further time to the defendant.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE SUPREME COURT.

SECTION 1. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and three associates two of whom with the Chief Justice shall be a quorum: they shall hold annually in the city of Monrovia to commence on the second Monday in January one session of said court, and shall sit until the business of the court shall have been disposed of. The Judges of the courts of Quarter Sessions shall sit with the Chief Justice at each session of said court; and the Chief Justice shall, before the first session of the court, notify the two Justices to sit at the first session of court; and at that session he shall notify one of the Judges who sit at the first session to sit at the second session with the one who did not sit, and therefore, the associate judges shall take their seats in the Supreme Court in regular order, two sitting, and one out at each term. Should the Chief Justice be interested in any case or cause, the three judges of the Courts of Quarter Sessions shall form the Supreme Court; and their acts, proceedings and decisions, shall have all the force, and validity as though the Chief Justice had presided. the one whose commission is the oldest shall preside; and should one of the associate judges be interested in any case when it is his turn to sit, his place shall be supplied by the other judge, and all decisions of said court shall be final. In any case in which two of the associate Judges of the Supreme court shall be concerned, the Chief Justice and the other associate Judge shall be, and they are hereby made competent to preside over the proceedings in the case; and their acts, proceedings and decisions, shall have all the force and validity, as if the two associate Judges had presided with the Chief Justice.

ARTICLE VI.

DEFINING CERTAIN CRIMES, AND RELATING TO THE PUNISHMENT OF CRIMES.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Crimes rendering the convicted party ineligible to office..... | 1 |
| Commutation of pecuniary penalty into public labor | 2 |
| Convicts of certain crimes may be hired out, how—when, and how to be kept..... | 3 |
| Definition of grand and petit larceny..... | 4 |
| Laws of the Republic..... | 5 |

1. That no person who shall have been convicted of theft, burglary, robbery, or any other misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment, shall ever after enjoy the elective franchise, or be eligible to any office in this Republic, or give evidence in any court of justice, or acts as jurymen, unless specially restored to the rights and immunities of citizenship by a public act of the Legislature, after having given sufficient evidence of repentance and reformation.

2. Any person or persons punished by fine 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; until said fine and costs be satisfied.

3. 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 condition the said prisoner shall not be allowed to go at large in the streets without being secured by a chain.

4. 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 shall be subjected to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

5. Theft in which the property stolen shall not be more than three dollars is petit larceny, and quarreling, rioting, drunkenness sabbath breaking, profanity, and lewdness are infractions of the peace.

6. Theft in which the property stolen shall be more than three dollars, is grand larceny; and all felonies under this act 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.

In no case shall the sentence of death be carried into execution, but by warrant, under the hand and seal of the President, directed to the proper Officer appointed to carry the sentence into effect.

7. The present criminal laws now in force in the Republic and such others as may from time to time, be enacted, shall constitute the criminal code of the Republic; such parts of the common law, 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 laws for the Republic.

ARTICLE VII.

AN ACT ENTITLED, AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED, AN
ACT ESTABLISHING THE JUDICIARY AND FIXING POWERS
COMMON TO THE SEVERAL COURTS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That in every case in which the defendant or defendants shall have been tried and convicted for Petit Larceny, he, she or they shall be fined in any sum not exceeding the cost of conviction, and shall make restitution four fold the value of the article stolen, and one half of said amount shall go to the Republic, and the other half to the person robbed. And if the person or persons so convicted be unable to pay the fine and make restitution as provided in this section, he, she or they may be adjudged by any two Magistrates (concurring) to be hired out by the Constable at the discretion, of the Magistrates for a term sufficient to liquidate the whole amount of cost and restitution. Provided, however, that, in case person or person so adjudged cannot be disposed of on the terms mentioned above, the said Justices shall have power to commit him or them to the common jail there to be held to labor on Public works, and such other work whether for private individuals or not, as will pay the Government for the cost of his detention, provided such person or persons be confined for a term of not

longer than three months, nor less than one month.

2. In all cases of Grand Larceny, the court before which such defendant shall have been tried and convicted, shall have authority at their discretion to order the said person to give bond and approved surety within twenty four hours for the faithful payment of any sum in which he, she or they shall have been fined, of not less than four fold the value of the article stolen, one half of said amount going to the Republic and the other half to the person robbed, and to be paid within twenty days after the judgment of the court shall have been rendered, and in case of failure to give bond in twenty four hours, the defendant or defendants shall be immediately imprisoned by the sheriff or his deputy, and on the next monday immediately ensuing, shall be hired out before the court house door to the highest bidder for any term sufficient to liquidate the fine with all costs and charges therewith connected. And in case the Sheriff shall fail in his efforts to hire out such convicted person or persons, he shall forthwith commit him, her or them to jail to be held to labor on the Public works under the supervision of the jailor,— they may also be used to work for private individuals when there is no public work, they paying for the same.

3. *And it is further enacted* that the 7th : Section of the 5th : Article entitled an act establishing the Judiciary be and the same is hereby repealed.

ARTICLE VIII.

RELATING TO OFFENDERS ESCAPING FROM ONE COUNTY AND GOING INTO ANOTHER :

SEC.

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| Warrant issued in one county may be endorsed by an Alderman or Justice in another and served..... | 1 |
| No action lies against Alderman or Justice so endorsing..... | 2 |

1. In case any one against whom, a warrant may be issued, by any Alderman of any City, or Justice, or Justices of any County in this Republic, for any offense there committed or done shall escape, go into, reside, or be in any other City or County out of the jurisdiction of the Alderman, Justice, or Justices of the City or County granting such warrant as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for, and it is hereby declared to be the duty of of any Alderman, Justice, or Justices of the City or County where such person shall escape, go into, reside, or be, upon proof being made upon oath, or affirmation, of the hand writing of the Alderman, Justice, or Justices, granting such warrant, to endorse his or their name or names on such warrant, which shall be sufficient authority to the person or persons bringing such warrant

to and all other persons to whom such warrant was originally directed, to execute such warrant in such other City or County out of the jurisdiction of the Alderman, Justice or Justices, granting such warrant as aforesaid, and to apprehend and carry such offender before the Alderman, Justice, or Justices who endorsed such warrant, or some other Alderman, Justice, or Justices of such other City or County where such warrant was endorsed, and in case the offense for which the offender shall be so apprehended as aforesaid, shall be bailable in law, by an Alderman or Justice of the Peace, and such offender shall be willing and ready to give bail for his or her appearance at the next session of the court proper to try the case, to be held in and for the County where the offense was committed: such Alderman, Justice or Justices, of such other City, or County, before whom such offender shall be brought, shall take bail of such offender for his or her appearance at the next session of the court proper to try the same, to be held in and for the City, or County where such offense was committed, in the same manner, as the Alderman or Justice of the Peace in the proper City or County might have done; and the said Alderman, Justice or Justices of such other City or County, so taking bail as aforesaid shall deliver or transmit such recognizance and other proceedings to the clerk of the proper court where such offender is required to appear by virtue of such recognizance. And such recognizance and other proceedings shall be as good and effectual in law, to all intents and purposes, and of the same force and validity, as if the same had been entered into, taken, or acknowledged, before an Alderman, Justice or Justices of the Peace, in and for the proper City or County where the offense was committed, and the same proceedings shall be had therein. And in case the offense for which, such offender shall be apprehended in any other City or County, shall not be bailable in law by an Alderman or Justice of the Peace, or such offender shall not give bail as aforesaid, to the satisfaction of the Alderman, Justice, or Justices of the Peace before whom such offender shall be brought in such other City or County, then the Constable or other person so apprehending such offender, shall carry and convey such offender before one of the Aldermen or Justices of the Peace of the proper City or County where such offense was committed, there to be dealt with according to law.

2. No action of trespass or false imprisonment, or information, or indictment shall be brought, sent, commenced, exhibited, or prosecuted, by any person or persons whomsoever, against the Alderman, Justice or Justices who shall endorse such warrant, for or by reason of his or their endorsing the same: such person or persons shall be at liberty

to bring or prosecute his, her, or their action or suit against the Alderman, Justice or Justices, who originally granted such warrant in the same manner as such person or persons might have done in case this clause of this Act had not been made.

ARTICLE IX.

PERTAINING TO ATTORNEYS.

SECTION 1. No person shall be allowed to plead, implead or prosecute as an attorney, before any court of this Republic 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 sum of fifteen dollars shall 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.



ARTICLE X.

RELATING TO OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Judge guilty of official misconduct, how suspended..... | 1 |
| Justices of the Peace failing to attend to complaints &c..... | 2 |
| Clerks of Courts, for neglects, how proceeded against..... | 3 |
| Sheriff's failing to make returns,—penalty for..... | 4 |
| Coroners subject to same liabilities..... | 5 |
| Constables, their duty, and forfeiture for neglect..... | 6 |
| Officers restricted in regard to natives &c..... | 7 |
| Clerk or Register neglecting to record wills &c,—penalty..... | 8 |
| Officers not named, how proceeded against..... | 9 |

1. That any person holding the office of Judge under the appointment of the Government of this Republic, who shall be guilty of showing 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 factions 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 offi-

cer, on proof of either of the above offences, until the Legislature can take cognizance of his case.

2. If any Justice of the Peace, shall fail in attending to such complaints as may be laid before him, by 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 President, 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.

3. 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 chattels of said clerks, after judgment being had against them.

4. 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.

5. That the Coroner shall be subjected to the same liabilities and penalties as the Sheriff in all similar cases of delinquencies, in the discharge of the duties of his office.

6. 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 a statement 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, ten dollars;—and for neglecting to attempt to pacify any breach of the the peace, or to arrest persons violating the peace they shall be fined at the discretion of any tribunal having cognizance of such malversation in office, according to the magnitude of the offences.

7. 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 a sum of not less than one hundred dollars, and in default of payment shall be imprisoned two years.

8. Any Clerk or Register who shall fail or neglect to note according to law, all wills and testaments, 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.

9. 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.

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ARTICLE XI.

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC OFFICERS TO RENEW THEIR BONDS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. 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.

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ARTICLE XII

AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICES.

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|--|---|
| Orphan, illegitimate and vagrant children may be apprenticed by the Probate Court; duties and responsibilities of masters &c.—parents and guardians may apprentice child or ward | 1 |
| Courts of Quarter Sessions guardians of apprentices | 2 |
| Recaptured Africans may be bound, and how | 3 |

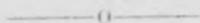
It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That the Probate Courts shall have the authority to bind out as an apprentice, every orphan child, who has no estate, and also every illegitimate and vagrant child, until 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. Said master or mistress so receiving said apprentice, shall covenant to teach said child the art, trade or craft which he or she may follow, and also to instruct, or cause to be instructed said apprentice in reading, writing and arithmetic. And also to pay to said apprentice at the expiration of his or her time, the sum of twelve dollars. All which stipulation and covenants, together with the age of the apprentice at the date of the Indenture, shall be inserted therein. Any parent or guardian may bind his or her child or ward according to the above provisions or on such other terms as may be agreed upon by the parties contracting. The indenture shall be authenticated by the names and seals of parties contracting and shall in ten days from its date and execution, be deposited in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Court, of the County in which the apprentice resides, under a penalty of twenty one dollars. No such indentures shall be transferable except by and with the consent of the Probate Court.

2. The Court of Quarter Sessions shall at all times hear and determine in a summary way, all complaints of apprentices against their masters and mistresses, alleging undeserved or immoderate correction—insufficient allowance of food clothing, lodging or instruction: shall make such order thereon as in its judgment; the necessity of the case may require: and may if in its judgment, it thinks fit, revoke the indenture and bind the apprentice to some other person for the unexpired term of the original indenture. The said court shall in like manner hear and dispose of all complaints of masters or mistresses against their apprentices for misconduct or desertion without good cause. Any Justice of the peace is authorized when the court is not in session, on receiving good information of the improper treatment of any apprentice, to summon the master or mistress to appear before him; and should the circumstances of the case demand

it, he may require the master or mistress to enter into a recognizance to appear before the next session of the Court of Quarter Sessions, to abide the determination of said court in the case. Should the master or mistress fail to enter into said recognizance with sufficient surety to appear as aforesaid—the Justice of the peace shall place said apprentice under the care of some suitable person, whose duty it shall be to have the said apprentice before the court as aforesaid at its next session.

3. That Recaptured Africans landed here under the operation and authority of the laws and treaties of this Republic, may be apprenticed to citizens of this Republic under the following regulations: males under the age of fourteen years shall be bound until they attain the age of twenty one years—over fourteen years—for a term of seven years; females under the age of eleven years, shall be bound until they shall attain the age of eighteen years—those over eleven years shall be bound for seven years. All persons to whom such recaptives shall be bound shall give annually to every male thus bound, three shirts, three pairs of trousers, one jacket, and one hat or cap; Girls and women shall be suitably and decently clothed. All such apprentices shall be kindly and humanely treated, and all proper diligence shall be required of those to whom they may be bound, to instil into them the principles, and to initiate them into the habits of, civilized life.



PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE REPUBLIC— OF COUNTIES, AND REGULATING TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

WHEREAS it is of the utmost importance to the peace, harmony, friendly intercourse, and amicable relation of nations, that the rights of each should be clearly ascertained and defined; and whereas serious inconveniences may arise from the extension of jurisdiction over territory, over which a rightful claim has not been asserted, and recognized; and whereas a common interest demands that all needless and unreasonable impediments be removed from the free operations of a lawful commerce: And whereas it is among the attributes of sovereignty and independence to prescribe regulations for the government of the conduct of all persons coming within its territorial jurisdiction; and whereas the people of the Republic

of Liberia, have at different times, for good and adequate pecuniary consideration, purchased from the native proprietors of the soil, the line of coast from Shebar on the North West, to Grand Cesters on the South East: A few inconsiderable intermediate points only excepted, and of these some are secured by pre-emptive treaties; And whereas said native proprietors have not only ceded to this Republic their property in the soil originally owned by them, but yielded up to this Republic all and every species of political ascendancy and sovereignty over the same: Therefore, in order to accomplish the laudable purpose stated above, as well as being moved thereto by other good and sufficient reasons: WE, the Representatives of the People of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled, in virtue of the purchases and treaties made as above stated, do hereby declare the following to be the Territorial Boundary of this Republic: To wit:—

A line commencing at the mouth of the Shebar river on the North West, running Northerly about forty miles—thence running Easterly to the inner or interior frontier boundary of the Gallinas section of the Vey, tribes; thence along said line of separation of the territory of the Vey, from that of the interior tribes, until it strikes the Northern boundary of the Millsburg purchase; thence along the North Eastern boundary of the Millsburg purchase, and through the tract of country lying between the said Millsburg purchase and Junk, until it strikes the Northern angle of the purchase of Junk territory, thence along the interior boundary of the purchase from Bassa to the St. John's River; thence across the St. John's and along the interior boundary of the territory of the Atlantic tribes from whom the purchases were made, until it reaches the South Eastern front of the Grand Cesters territory, thence in a South Westerly direction to the ocean at Grand Cesters in 4 degrees 39 minutes north latitude; and 8 degrees 5 minutes west longitude being a mean parallel distance from the ocean of forty five miles: thence along the sea coast in a North Westerly direction to the place of commencement, including all rivers, harbors, bays, islands and such a distance out in the ocean as is determined by the law of nations, to be just and proper in such cases, or as security, protection and a wholesome jurisdiction may demand.

ARTICLE II.

DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF THE REPUBLIC.

SECTION 1. That the Northwestern boundary of the Re-

public of Liberia is, and shall be the Northwestern boundary of the County of Montserrado; and that the Southern Eastern boundary of said county shall be a line one mile to the South East of the Southern Eastern bank of the main branch of Junk River and running parallel with said river back into the interior.

2. The boundary of the County of Grand Bassa on the Northwest shall be the South Eastern boundary of the County of Montserrado; and the Centre of Sanquin River shall be the South Eastern boundary of Grand Bassa County.

3. The County of Sinoe shall extend on the North West to the South Eastern boundary of the County of Grand Bassa and on the South East it shall reach to the South Eastern boundary of the Republic.

ARTICLE III.

INCORPORATING, BOUNDING, AND REGULATING COUNTIES AND TOWNS.

SECTION I. 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.

2. 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 fulfil contracts, and levy all such taxes as may be necessary for township purposes.

3. 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—examine into the state of roads and bridges—determine what expenditures are needed for the erection, improvement and care of the same, and recommend to the President 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.

4. That all monies arising from licenses under the first and second sections of the eighth Article of the Act regulating Navigation, Commerce and Revenue be, and the same are hereby granted to the authorities of the towns and villages in which said amounts shall be raised to be expended for County and town purposes. It is hereby made the duty of the Treasurer

and sub-treasurers of the several Counties to furnish the authorities of said towns and villages, with an account of the sums so paid in : and on presentation of the said account to the President, he is hereby authorized and requested to draw on the Treasurer or sub-treasurer respectively, for the same : to be applied to the improvement of their respective Towns and villages.

5. That where there are no local authorities, the President be, and he is hereby authorized and requested to appoint some suitable person or persons to receive the amount of the apportionment which may be due to said town or village, and to carry out the provisions of this and the preceding sections.

6. The Treasurer of the County shall receive and keep subject to 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 ; 2d, for military fines ; and 3d, 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.

ARTICLE IV.

PERTAINING TO THE APPORTIONMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF LANDS.

SECTION 1. Each settler on his arrival in this Republic is entitled to draw a town lot or a plantation, for which the President shall give him a certificate specifying the number and the time of drawing. If a town lot be drawn it is required, that 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, be erected thereon, and if completed in two years from the date of the certificate, the drawer will be entitled to a fee simple deed. If a plantation be drawn, and within two years two acres of land on said plantation shall have been brought under cultivation, the certificate may be exchanged for a deed in fee simple.

2. 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.

3. That women not having husbands, immigrating to this Republic 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 Republic 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 land 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 rights, or inherited from a former husband or other person, provided she shall not have alienated such lands at the time of her marriage.

4. 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. And all persons trespassing on lands not their own, by cutting or removing timber or other property, are liable to exemplary damages.

5. 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 pro- or expulsion of the drawer before the expiration of the probationary term, descend to his or her heirs in the Republic.

6. 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.

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

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ARTICLE V.

FOR REGULATING TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

1. That whenever there exists an excess of under brush or noxious weeds to the injury of persons living contiguous, injuring or in-conveniencing them either in their ways, prop-

erty 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.

2. That the owners of property thus incumbered shall be allowed one year from date of such incumbrance for the repayment of the sum expended in clearing the same—they paying an advance of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent on the sum so paid out. And should they fail or neglect to pay the same, at or before the expiration of one year, then, after forty days' public notice in one of the news papers published in Monrovia, the same shall be sold or such portion thereof, as shall be necessary to repay the township with the advance and cost 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.

3. 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. Citizens 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 cost within thirty days.

4. 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 pre-

vent the desecration of the same by colonists :—And for the proper ordering of the streets it shall be their duty, and the 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.

5. 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.

6. That if any individual or individuals be found drunk in the streets of any of the towns of this Republic, he, she, or they, shall be taken immediately and confined in jail until he, she, or they become sober.

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ARTICLE VI.

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS &c.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Land Commissioners—His duties—Public lands surveyed before being sold—at what time sale of—Report quarterly to Secretary of Treasury,— | 1 |
| Copy of Surveyors Certificate to be given to purchaser—Land commissioners fees how collected..... | 2 |
| Monies paid into public Treasury—minimum prices of lands..... | 3 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled :—

SECTION 1. That there shall be appointed in each of the Counties of this Republic, one person to be called Land Commissioner, whose duty shall be to effect the sale of public lands. Any citizen expressing to him a desire to purchase a lot or parcel of public lands, (excepting such as may be reserved for public use) he shall forthwith have the said lot or parcel of land so desired, surveyed at the expense of the government, so as to give the precise number, situation and the boundaries before offering it for sale, and upon his

receiving the Surveyor's certificate describing the boundaries, number &c. of said land, he shall on the first day of the term of the Court of Quarter Sessions, when it is not in session offer at public auction in front the Court "House," the lot, or parcel of land so desired and surveyed. He shall file in his office all certificates received by him from the Surveyor of lands surveyed by him, and keep a correct account in a book furnished for the purpose of all lands sold, and report quarterly to the Secretary of the Treasury. And shall receive five per cent to be paid by the government on all sales of land effected by him.

2. That the Land Commissioner shall give to the purchaser of lands a copy of the Surveyor's certificate, endorsing on the back of it the date on which the land was sold, and the amount for which it was sold. The purchaser on receiving said certificate shall pay into the Treasury, within ninety days, the full amount for land so purchased, and take the Treasurer's receipt for the same, and present the same to the Land Commissioner. And should the purchaser fail to comply, the sale shall be null and void. And in all such cases the person shall be responsible to the Land Commissioner for the amount of his percentage on sales, and on his failing to pay the same, it may be recovered in an action of debt before any Justice of the Peace or any Court having jurisdiction in the case.

3. That the Land Commissioner on receiving the Treasurer's receipt for moneys paid in for lands sold, shall forthwith grant the purchaser a certificate addressed to the Register, certifying that he had complied with the law in the purchase of a lot or parcel of land as described by the Surveyor's certificate, a copy of the same thereto annexed, and that he is entitled to a deed for the same, for which certificate he shall pay twenty five cents. All lands surveyed and offered at auction and not sold may be sold by the Land Commissioner at private sale, payment to be made the same as land sold at auction, provided it is not sold below the minimum prices of land. The minimum prices of land lying on the margin of rivers, shall be one dollar an acre, and those lying in the interior of the lands on the rivers Fifty cents. Town lots each shall be Thirty dollars, except marshy, rocky and barren lots and plots of land which may be sold to the highest bidder.

4. That it shall be the duty of the Registrar, on receiving the certificate of the Land Commissioner with a copy of the Surveyor's certificate describing the number deed and boundaries of land, annexed, immediately to fill up a deed with the number of acres, number of lot

and boundaries &c, as per Surveyor's certificate, counter-signing the same as being executed on the authority of the Land Commissioner's certificate with the day and date so executed, and deliver the same over to the purchaser, he paying for the same. The Register shall file all certificates and shall transmit them semi-annually to the Secretary of State. He shall be allowed the usual fees for making out and recording deeds, it being hereby made the duty of each Register when called upon to record deeds for lands sold in his County, in a book furnished him for the purpose. The President is hereby authorized and requested to lodge in the hands of the Register of each County a sufficient number of blank deeds for lands, to be filled up by the Register according to the 4th, Section of this Act.

5. That the President is hereby authorized and requested to have drawn up at as early a date as possible so as to be extended a correct plot, where there is none, of each Town and Village, or Settlement, in the several Counties of this Republic, where lands are being drawn or sold, and a copy of each plot of the different Towns, Villages or Settlements in the respective Counties, be placed in the office of the Land Commissioner, and also in the office of the Register who shall note on the plot deposit in his office, all land disposed of by the government for which he gave deeds, or otherwise coming under his notice, and to whom conveyed. It shall be the duty of the Land Commissioner to note on the plot deposit in his office all land sold, by him and to whom sold, and of all lands reported by the Surveyors. The Land Commissioner shall be held responsible for any damage sustained by any person or person from mismanagement or neglect of the duties of his office: And further any law conflicting with this Act be, and the same is hereby repealed.

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ARTICLE VII

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SURVEYORS FOR EACH COUNTY, AND DEFINING THEIR DUTIES

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

SECTION 1. That immediately after the passage of this Act, there shall be appointed in each of the Counties of this Republic Surveyors of Public lands for their respective Counties, as follows: For Montserrat County, there shall be three Surveyors appointed; for Grand Bassa County, there shall be two

appointed; and for Sinoe County there shall be two appointed each one being responsible for his own acts; and upon disputes arising between two Surveyors as to the correctness of survey of any plot or plots of land surveyed separately by them, the question shall be determined by the decision of two Surveyors agreeing—and where there are not three Surveyors, the Land Commissioner may be associated to determine the question.

2. It shall be the duty of said Surveyors, separately or jointly when called upon in their respective Counties, to survey Public lands drawn by emigrants or others to whom lands may be apportioned, by the order of the President or of whomsoever he may appoint to issue such orders in the several Counties of this Republic. Public lands to be sold at public auction to be surveyed at the order of the Land Commissioner.

3. All land shall be surveyed so as to give its situation, the number of lot or parcel of land as it may be, the boundaries, the four corners or angles and the number of acres. The Surveyor shall give to the party concerned in the survey a certificate describing the situation, the number, the boundaries, the corners and quantity, and receive from the said party a receipt endorsed by the Commissioner of public lands stating that to their knowledge or belief as the case may be, said lot or parcel of land describing the same, had been surveyed and a certificate of the same received; upon said receipt the Surveyor shall be entitled to pay for his services at rates as follows: For each ten acre plot surveyed at any one time to order, not exceeding five plots, Three dollars: For each ten acre plot surveyed in like manner not exceeding ten nor less than six plots, Two dollars and fifty cents. For each ten acre plot not exceeding twenty, nor less than eleven plots: Two dollars and twenty five cents: For every ten acre plot over twenty plots, Two dollars, and for every Town lot surveyed, One dollar. It shall be the duty of the Surveyor to report to the Land Commissioners of all public lands surveyed by him, to the order of the President for emigrants or others, giving their situation boundaries &c. and to extend on the Plot deposited in the Land Commissioners office, as additional surveys are made, and shall receive from the government twelve and a half cents for each ten acre block up to four at any one time extended on the plot, and five and upwards at any one time ten cents per block, and for town lots six and a quarter cents up to four, and five and upwards extended at any one time, five cents each. The said Land Commissioner shall examine said plots by comparing them with the field notes, and if found correct shall endorse the receipt for survey, certifying on the same that the block had been plotted, on which the Surveyor shall receive his pay.

4. Any Surveyor or Surveyors fraudulently obtaining a receipt from any party on a false certificate when the lands as stated in the certificate, had not been surveyed according to law,

upon conviction of the same before any Court having jurisdiction in the case, he shall be fined in a sum of not less than Fifty dollars nor more than One Hundred dollars and dismissed from office.

5. That any law conflicting with this act be, and the same is hereby repealed.

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ARTICLE I.

AN ACT RELATING TO TREATIES.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.—

SECTION 1. That in all cases of treaties to be made, of which this Government shall be a party, the President may appoint Commissioners, who may be clothed with the necessary power, and held bound to depart in no wise from their instruction— And all treaties, whereof the Republic 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.

2. That in all treaties and negotiations with the surrounding Headmen 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 arrangements 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 action 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.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT DEFINING USURY.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives

of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

SECTION 1. That any interest charged in this Republic higher than ten *per centum*, per annum, shall be considered usury; and any person or persons guilty of charging more than ten *per centum* per annum on any amounts which may be due him or them, shall forfeit the whole principal and interest to go to the use of the Republic.

2. In cases of open accounts, or bills of exchange, or other bonds or obligations for money due, where there shall be no expressed agreement as to the rate of interest, the creditor shall have the right to charge six *per centum* per annum and no more;—nevertheless it shall be the privilege of any and all persons in making contract when the payment of money is involved, to charge as high an interest as ten *per centum* per annum, which shall be binding upon the grantee if originally agreed to by both parties when the contract was made.

3. Offences against this act shall be deemed misdemeanors, and shall be prosecuted as such, upon information, before the court of monthly Session.

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ARTICLE I.

AN ACT ANNULLING AND FORBIDDING A STATUTE OF LIMITATION.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled and is hereby enacted by authority of the same:—

That the act 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 of force previously to the year 1850.

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Council in Legislature Assembled and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:—

That the act passed September 1839 “annulling the act fixing a limitation in the bar of the recovery of claims in the Commonwealth,” be, and the same is hereby repealed.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT DEFINING PIRACY.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Punishment of piracy..... | 1 |
| Definition of piracy..... | 2 |
| Accessories before the fact—and punishment..... | 3 |
| Robbery committed on shore by pirates..... | 4 |
| President empowered to authorize the seizure of pirates..... | 5 |
| Proceeds of condemned piratical vessels how disposed of..... | 6 |
| Commanders of armed vessels authorized to capture pirates..... | 7 |
| Other Acts constituting piracy..... | 8 10 |
| Cases in which pecuniary penalty may be inflicted..... | 11 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That all offences denominated by the laws piracy, and which would, by the law of nations be punishable with death, shall be punishable in this Republic by imprisonment for life, excepting such offences as may be specified by the Legislature and the pains and penalties thereof specially defined by law.

2. If any person or persons shall commit upon the high seas, or in any open roadstead, harbor, bay, or river within the jurisdiction of this Republic, murder, or the crime of robbery in, or upon any vessel, or upon the officers, crew or passengers, on the landing thereof; or if any captain or mariner of any such vessel shall piratically and feloniously run away with such vessel, or shall voluntarily yield up such vessel to a pirate, every such offender shall be deemed, taken and adjudged to be a pirate and felon, and being thereof convicted before any court of competent jurisdiction shall suffer the penalty attached to the crime of piracy.

3. Every person who shall, either upon the land or sea, knowingly, and willingly, aid and assist, procure, command, council, or advise any person, to do, or commit, any murder or robbery, or other act, as piracy aforesaid, and such person shall do or commit any such piracy or robbery, then every such person, so aiding, assisting, commanding or counselling as the case may be, is hereby declared, deemed, and adjudged to be accessory to such piracies before the fact, and being thereof convicted before a competent tribunal, shall suffer imprisonment for life.

4. If any person engaged in any piratical cruise or enterprise, or being of the crew, or ship's company of any piratical

vessel, shall land from such vessel, and on shore commit robbery, such person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof before a competent tribunal shall suffer the penalty attached to the crime of piracy.

5. The President of this Republic is authorized to instruct the commander of any armed vessel of the Republic to subdue, seize, take, and send into any port of this Republic, any armed vessel or boat, or any vessel or boat, the crew whereof shall be armed, and which shall have attempted or committed any piratical aggression, search, restraint, depredation or seizure upon any vessel of this Republic or the citizens thereof, and also to retake any Liberian vessel which may have been unlawfully captured upon the high seas.

6. Whenever any vessel or boat, from which any piratical aggression, search, restraint, depredation or seizure shall have been attempted or made, shall be captured and brought into any port of this Republic, the same having been condemned by due process and trial in any court having jurisdiction in admiralty cases, she shall be adjudged to be sold, and the proceeds thereof to go, one moiety to the Republic, the other to the captor. And the court so condemning is hereby authorized to decree the sale and distribution accordingly.

7. The commanders of armed vessels of this Republic knowing any vessel or vessels to have committed any of the crimes above specified, are hereby authorized to pursue, take and detain said vessels and the crew thereof, and carry them into the port lying next to the place of capture to be dealt with according to law.

8. Any person or persons who shall make forcible entry on board any vessel within the jurisdiction of this Republic, for the purpose of robbery, or molestation of the crew or passengers, or other persons on board said vessel, or who shall unlawfully hinder, detain, or restrain said vessel from proceeding on her destined course, all such persons so forcibly entering upon, hindering, detaining or restraining shall be deemed guilty of piracy, and upon conviction thereof before a competent tribunal, shall suffer the pains and penalties attached to the crimes of piracy.

9. Any person or person who shall go along side any vessel within the jurisdiction of this Republic, or enter thereon, and take therefrom by force, any portion of the cargo, tackle, apparel or furniture of said vessel: or shall cut, injure, or in any manner damage any portion of the cargo, tackle, apparel, furniture, or hull of said vessel, all such persons shall be deemed guilty of piracy.

10. Any person on board of one vessel who shall fire a shot or discharge any deadly weapon in and upon any other vessel, such person shall be deemed guilty of piracy. Nevertheless, should such act be done in defence of said vessel, her cargo, or the persons on board, such fact may be pleaded in

trial, and should it be established, such act shall not be deemed piracy.)

11. In cases of conviction in any of the courts of this Republic of any of those crimes denominated by the laws piracy to which no specific penalty has been assigned, and in which murder has not been committed, the penalty shall be a fine of not less than five hundred dollars, nor more than three thousand dollars: and in default of payment, imprisonment for a term of five years but in those cases in which murder has been committed, the penalty shall be imprisonment for life.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT TO REGULATE PROCEEDINGS IN CASES OF WRECKS &c.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Property found to be delivered to Collector—how disposed of, &c. | 1 |
| Disagreement as to value, recourse to arbitration &c. | 2 3 |
| Penalty for refusing or neglecting to surrender such property. | 4 |
| Forfeiture of Collector for neglect of duty in such cases. | 5 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

1. That whenever boats, goods or property of any kind, having been wrecked or lost, is 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 Republic. But should an owner appear to claim the said property, he shall be required to pay salvage of one fourth the value of the articles so found to be paid or secured to the finder.

2. 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.

3. 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 pay over to the parties concerned such proportion as shall accrue to them on the produce of the sale.

4. That should any person finding or picking up any wrecked or drift property, fail, or refuse to submit to the proceedings above prescribed, his 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.

5. 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.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE MILITIA.

ORGANIZATION, DISCIPLINE, PAY.

| | SEC. |
|--|------|
| Who subject to military duty | 1 |
| Who exempted..... | 2 |
| Duty of the commander-in-chief to organize the militia..... | 3 |
| Officers of Brigade—Regiment—company..... | 4 |
| Volunteer company to be elected— | 5 |
| Duties of privates—non-commissioned officers—disarmed volunteer companies..... | 6 |
| Regimental parade—how..... | 7 |
| General orders—how issued—by the Brigadier-Major..... | 8 |
| Regimental courts-martial—where and when held—how composed— | 9 |
| jurors—of adjutant..... | 9 |
| General court-martial—when and when held—how composed—duties of Brigadier-Major—may appoint a clerk..... | 10 |
| Fines arising under this act, how collected—by whom..... | 11 |
| Collection of fines may be delayed for further hearing..... | 12 |
| Fines for neglect of duty—deficiency of equipment—disorderly behavior..... | 13 |
| Persons elected to serve as officers shall be examined and recommended for commission..... | 14 |
| Pay when in actual service, and allowance..... | 15 |
| Tactics—discipline and general regulations when in actual service—forms of proceeding in courts martial..... | 16 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled, —

1. That every able bodied male citizen of this Republic between the ages of 16 and 50, except those herein after enumerated

ated, 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.

2. 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.

Members of the executive cabinet, and Judges of the Supreme and Quarterly Courts, Members of the Legislature and ordained Ministers of the Gospel, — and persons regularly employed on board the vessels of this Republic, 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 person 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 persons 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 further provided*, 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 sails is situated, the sum of twenty-five cents, to be accounted for by the Treasurer, and applied as the Legislature may direct.

3. It shall be the duty of the Commander-in-chief to organize the militia of this Republic 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 never 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.

4. There shall be one Brigadier General, with one aid, whose rank shall be that of Captain; one Brigadier Inspector with the rank of Major; one Quarter-master, & one Commissary 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 Ensign; one adjutant, one Quarter Master, and one Commissary 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, and one Ensign, four Sergeants four corporals, and two Musicians.

5. 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.

6. 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 cartridgebox; and, when called into actual service, with a suitable knapsack—and every volunteer neglecting to comply with or actually violating the provisions of its charter, shall be formally cited by notice of at least 26 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.

7. 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.

8. The regimental Courts Martial shall be held in each county within twenty days after the Regimental parades, and at such places as the Commanding officer of the different regiments may appoint. The court shall be composed of the Commander of the Regiment where it is held, and at least with two other commissioned officers of the staff or line, and not to exceed four, except in cases of magnitude, when the commanding officer of the regiment may order an extra number to be cited to compose the body, not to exceed eight. This court martial shall have cognizance of all military offences within its bounds committed by privates or officers below the rank of Major, and may impose fines and forfeitures incurred at regimental and company parades and from this court appeals may be had to the General Court Martial. And further, it shall be the duty of the Adjutant of each regiment to attend on all courts-Martial, to do all citation in person or by deputy, under the direc-

tion of the commanding officer of the regiment: and further, he shall receive one dollar and twenty five cents per day for each day he attends on the Court Martial not exceeding three days, which amount shall be paid out of monies in the Treasury arising from military fines.

9. There shall be one General Court Martial held at Monrovia, or elsewhere within the Republic as the Commander-in-Chief may appoint on the second Wednesday in January of each year, to be composed of a General and two or more staff officers. This court shall have cognizance of all military offences committed by an officer above the rank of Captain, and when a General is to be tried, if there is no General to preside, the Commander-in-Chief shall name what officer shall preside, during that session of the court. The Brigade-Major shall attend on this court, do all citation under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief or General, and from this court appeals may be had to the Commander in Chief. And further when a Court Martial is convened, it shall be lawful for such court to appoint such a person as the members thereof may see fit, to act as clerk, and the clerk so appointed, shall receive a compensation for his services in a sum not exceeding one dollar per day, to be paid out of the Treasury of the Republic from any monies arising from military fines. It shall be his duty to keep records of all the doings in the Court Martial under the direction of the presiding officer, he shall deliver a true, plain and correct copy of all the proceedings of the court, approved by the presiding officers, to the Commander-in-Chief, and receive from him a certificate acknowledging the same, and on presenting said certificate to the presiding officer, he shall sign his bill for services rendered as clerk.

10. All fines assessed by virtue of the Military Act, shall be collected by the Sheriff of each county or his deputy: and to enable him to make collection, he shall be presented with a plain and correct copy of the records of all such fines approved by the Commander-in-Chief, for which he shall give his receipt. Having collected such fines, he shall deduct a commission of twelve per centum and shall account for, and pay over the residue into the public Treasury within four months after the reception of the records of fines in hand under the same penalties, and subject to the same mode of recovery as prescribed by law. And should any person or persons so charged with fine or fines fail to make payments in three months after the Sheriff shall have demanded the amount of such fine or fines from him or them, the Sheriff is hereby authorized to make distress and sale thereof to amount of the fine or fines so charged against him or them. It also shall be lawful for the Sheriff to attach the effects or money of such delinquents in the hands of any person, and it shall be lawful for such garnishee

to satisfy and pay the amount due on account of such fines; but if he shall refuse or fail to pay the said amount, it shall be the duty of the Sheriff to summon such garnishee before the nearest Justice of the Peace for said county, informing him the precise time he shall appear (allowing sufficient time,) and if he shall appear, and on oath confess that he has, or had effects in his hands, or stands or stood indebted to such delinquent sufficient to satisfy in part or the whole of such fine or fines at the time, or since the attachment was served on him or them, or if he fails to appear at the time, it shall be lawful for the said Justice to award execution against such garnishee for the amount thereof, or so much as shall appear to be in hand with cost: provided that before such Justice shall award an execution for default, he shall require an oath that such garnishee was duly informed of the time of such application.

11. Any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, who having been fined by a Court Martial, can make it appear satisfactorily to the presiding officer of the Court in which the fine was assessed, that the fine was illegally assessed owing to circumstances in his case, the presiding officer may grant him a new trial at the ensuing court, and delay the collection of the fine until the case be further determined, when the fine may be revoked or revived as the court may determine. In each case the Sheriff shall be notified by order from the presiding officer of the court to delay the collection of any fine in question, and may again order the collection of any such fine, or inform him that such fine has been revoked, which order from the presiding officer shall be a lawful discharge to the Sheriff for the amount of any such fine or fines in his hands for collection.

12. 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 after the call of the Roll, not less than fifty cents, nor more than one dollar; for appearing without a gun, not less than twenty five cents, nor no more than three dollars, and for any and every other article or 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, for not being present at the call of the Roll, shall be fined in a sum not less than one

dollar nor more than two dollars; and for failing to uniform himself according to law, 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 commander of companies, and all orderly sergeants to provide themselves with a copy of the most approved work on the tactics and discipline of the United States Army.

13. Whenever any person is elected by his company to any office, he shall be examined by a board of officers appointed by the President; and if found competent, he shall be recommended by them to be commissioned by the President. The companies shall be only required to parade at such times as are named in their respective charters.

14. 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 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; Colonel thirty-eight dollars per month, and three rations; Brigadier General forty dollars, and four rations.

15. The general tactics and discipline of the militia—the policy and general regulations when in actual service,—and the forms of proceedings in courts martial, and all forms of military process, order of reports, accounts and returns, shall be the same as in the United States' service.

ARTICLE II.

SUPPLEMENT TO AN ACT, ENTITLED AN ACT TO REGULATE THE MILITIA.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| The time of monthly parade..... | 1 |
| The days on which Regimental and Battalion parade shall take place, hours of parade..... | 3 |
| Places where Battalion parade shall take place..... | 4 |

| | |
|--|---|
| How delinquents from parade shall be brought to trial..... | 5 |
| How evidence shall be taken before Court Martial..... | 6 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That from and after the passage of this act, the Militia companies of the several settlements or townships of the counties of Mesurado, Grand Bassa and Sinoe, be and the commanders of the same are hereby authorized and commanded to parade their respective companies in their several settlements or townships on the first Saturday in every second Month: viz, February, April, June, August, October, and December, according to law in such cases governing Volunteer companies, with all proper arms and ammunitions as are by law made and provided Such months excepted as are required by law for Battalion and General parades.

2. That the day on which Regimental and Battalion parades shall take place, shall be on the first Friday in the months of February and October.—and the hours shall be from nine o'clock to twelve A. M. and from two to four P. M.

3. That the law requiring the citizens of the several townships in the County of Mesurado, to come to Monrovia in the months of February and November to parade, shall be, so amended as to read that the Regimental parades shall take place in the Settlement of Caldwell in the Month of October, in the Town of Monrovia in the Month of February—and the law requiring the companies of Bexley and Buchanan in the County of Grand Bassa, to parade in Edina, shall be so altered as to read that the Regimental parades shall take place in the Town of Edina in the month of February, in the Town of Buchanan in October—And the Regimental parade in Sinoe County, shall be so altered as to read that the Regimental parade shall take place in the Town of Greenville in the Month of February—and the Settlement of Readville in the Month of October.

4. Officers, Drill shall take place in the settlements or townships in which the several parades are appointed.

5. That all delinquents to be tried at Court Martial shall be notified to appear there by the Adjutant of the Regiment at least five days before the Session of the Court Martial when and where he may defend himself in person or proxy.

6. That all civil officers who may not be herein specially exempted, shall if on any day of parade, they be required to discharge civil duties, pursuant to their office, be on that day exempted from Military duty.

7. That in the event of the sickness or other disability of any person, thereby preventing said person from parade

that evidence of the fact be received on oath by the Court Martial no certificate being had notwithstanding.

8. All laws conflicting with the above be and the same are hereby repealed.

9. That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby authorized to transmit a copy of the above act to the several settlements as soon after the passage as possible.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NAVY.

ARTICLE I.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled :—

SECTION I. That from and after the passage of this Act, the President be, and he is hereby authorized to have built, or purchased as soon as possible a vessel of not less than sixty, nor more than one hundred tons burthen, to be armed for the protection of our Government and Revenue.

2. That the President shall have the power of appointing with the concurrence of the Senate, at all times, the officers and men that may be required for the commanding of said vessel.

3. That the said vessel shall be mounted with guns, the size and number to be determined by the President.

4. That the Police and general regulations of said vessel shall be under the control of the President, who may adopt, as far as practicable, the regulations, or any part thereof, provided for the government of such vessels in the United States; and shall assign from time to time, to the Commander such duties as may serve the interest of the Republic of Liberia.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT GRANTING CERTAIN MONIES TO THE DIFFERENT TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled, —

SECTION I. That from and after the passage of this Act

all monies arising from licenses, in the several Towns and Villages of this Republic, as specified in the 1st and 3d Sections of the 8th article of the Act Regulating Navigation, Commerce and Revenue, be, and the same are hereby granted the authorities of the several Towns and Villages, in which the said amount or amounts shall arise, for the improvement of the same.

2. That it shall be the duty of the Local Authorities of the several Towns and Villages, to obtain from the Treasurer or Sub-Treasurer in each County a correct account of all monies paid in for licenses as specified in the first section of this Act, from the Respective Towns and Villages; which account shall be presented to the President; whereupon he shall draw upon the Treasurer, or Sub-Treasurer in each County for the amount paid in the several departments.

3. That where there are no persons regularly appointed to carry out the provisions of this Act, the President be, and he is hereby requested to appoint some proper person or persons, whose duty it shall be to carry out the provisions of this Act.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT FIXING THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT—MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE &c. —

| | SECT. |
|--|-------|
| Monrovia the Seat of Government..... | 1 |
| When the Legislature shall meet..... | 2 |
| Vacancy in the Presidency, how filled..... | 3 |
| Public account when made up to..... | 4 |

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That the Town of Monrovia, in the County of Montserrado be, and same the is hereby made, constituted, and declared, the Seat of the Government of this Republic.

2. That the Legislature of this Republic, shall meet annually in the Town Monrovia on the first Monday in December, until otherwise ordered by law.

3. That in the event of the death, resignation or other disability of both the President and Vice President of this

Republic, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall act as President, until the disability be removed.

4. That the accounts of all public officers must be made up, and reported quarterly. Any public functionary failing to make full quarterly accounts and returns, of matters under his charge, will subject himself to the charge of official misconduct, and to the pains and penalties there-to attached. All public accounts shall be closed on the thirtieth day of September in each year, which day shall end the fiscal year.



ARTICLE I.

AN ACT LEGALIZING MARRIAGES AND LEGITIMATING ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

SECTION I. That no marriage of colonists or others, resident, or being in the Republic (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 legal barrier to their entering into the proposed connexion. The parties to any marriage contrary to this section shall be expelled from the Republic, and the person performing the marriage ceremony for unlicensed parties shall be fined at the discretion of the Court of Sessions.

2. 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 Republic.

3. All persons who at the time of their arrival in this Republic, 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.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

SECTION I. There shall 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.

2. Parents shall give notice to the clerk of their town, of the births and deaths of their children:—And every house holder shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his or her house—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.

3. That the Town Clerk shall make semi-annual 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.

4. That the Probate Clerk shall make annual returns of all such matters and things as come within the view of this Act, to the Secretary of State.

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RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE THE CENSUS TAKEN.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.—

1. That the President be and he is hereby authorized to cause as accurate a Census to be taken as the cir-

circumstances of the case will admit, of all the inhabitants, of the Republic—of Liberia, America, and also, the aboriginal inhabitants, as soon as possible.

1. The name of each head of a family, male and female.
2. The ages and number in each family, so as to show:
3. 4. All males over 65 years of age, and all females of the same age.
5. 6. All males over 50, and under 65, and all females of the same age.
7. 8. All males over 21, and under 50, and all females of the same age.
9. 10. All males between 16 and 21, and all females of the same age.
11. 12. All males under 16 and over 11, and all females of the same age.
13. 14. All males over 5, and under 12, and all females of the same age.
15. 16. All males over 1, and under 5, and all females of the same age.
17. 18. All males under 1, and all females of same age.
19. How many of all ages shall have been born in the Republic.

20. All idiots, lunatics, blind and decrepit persons:—

21. The number of horses, jacks, mules, or working oxen, cows, hogs, stock of all kind, spinning wheels, sugar mills, coffee cleaners, Arrowroot grinders, all or any kind of produce they raise or manufacture for market, and the number of acres of land cultivated by each and every family and citizen.

And that the pay allowed for taking the civilized inhabitants shall be according to the number returned, at the rate of one dollar for every hundred souls.

All laws and Regulations conflicting with the above be and the same are hereby repealed.

2. It is further Resolved, that for taking the Census of the aboriginal inhabitants, the Censor shall be allowed one dollar per day and five cents per mile, for each mile he may travel.



ARTICLE I.

AN ACT CONCERNING BASTARDY.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled :—

SECTION 1. 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 shall 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 surety 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 Republic, or Sub Treasurer 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 Treasurer of the Republic for the faithful performance of such order 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.

2. If any woman after having been summoned before any Justice of the Peace, shall 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 bond with surety to be approved by the Court of Quarter Sessions, for the maintenance of the child.

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ARTICLE I.

AN ACT RELATING TO EXPATRIATION.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled,—

SECTION 1. Any person or persons, citizens of this Republic, who shall remove to another Government 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 Republic at least twelve months thereafter.

2. Should any person or persons who had left the Republic, 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, all his or their real property in the Republic shall be confiscated, and he or they debarred forever from citizenship therein.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT CREATING POST OFFICES AND POST MASTERS IN EACH COUNTY OF THE REPUBLIC VIZ ;

AT MONROVIA, BUCHANAN, AND GREENVILLE.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled :—

SECTION 1. [That from and after the passage of this act, there shall be created a Post Master General, whose duty it shall be to have the oversight of the provisions of this Act, and that there shall be established, connected with the Custom Houses, Post office Departments, and that the Collector of the above named places, be appointed Post Masters

2 There shall be provided for each Post office Department, as may be required, mail bags, cases for assorting

and arranging letters, boxes for receiving dropped letters, and conveniences for weighing letters:—it shall be the duty of each Post Master to report to the Post Master General of such bags, cases, boxes, &c as may be required for the Departments: and the Post Master General shall be required to order what is necessary for each Post Office, and that he the Post Master General be required to make quarterly returns.

3. It shall be the duty of the Post Masters to receive all letters, papers, and packages, coming by mail or otherwise,—to assort and arrange the same for a convenient delivery when applied for, and all letters &c. for other counties than the one where they are received, shall be assorted and put up under seal, and forwarded by the first safe and speedy opportunity offering. Letters for persons residing out of the Republic, to be forwarded in like manner free of postage. And it shall also be the duty of the Post Master to receive the postage on all letters &c. delivered.—letters to be forwarded out of the Republic excepted: and he shall make up a list of all letters, papers &c, remaining in the office over three days, with the names of the persons to whom directed, and advertise the same by putting it up in such Towns and villages to which the letters, papers &c, may be addressed—he shall place in a public place at or near the office a sign, at least three feet long and six inches broad marked in capitals 'Post Office'. When no opportunity offers for forwarding the mail to the different counties, and receiving mails from the same, the Post Master General shall be, and he is hereby authorized with the advice of the President, to make an express arrangement for the conveyance of the mails between the several counties each way at least once a month—no letters to be forwarded by express unless certified on the back thereof.

4. All vessels either Liberian or Foreign arriving in Port, it shall be the duty of each Captain before entering his vessel at the Custom House, to deliver to the Collector and his Deputy, all letters, newspapers and any other packages that may legally be considered as coming under the Post office regulations—letters to consignees excepted;—letters to be forwarded out of the Republic excepted.

5. All letters of half ounce, and under shall be styled a single letter, and shall pay a postage of three cents, letters over half ounce, or part of an ounce, over one ounce, one cent additional postage to be added to the double postage. News papers and Pamphlets, a quarter of a cent—all single letters by express shall pay a postage of twelve and a half cents—double letters twenty five cents, and one cent for every additional half ounce, or part over one ounce, and one cent to be added to the different postages for advertised letters. All letters left at the Post office to be mailed

to any port of Liberia, where there is no Post office, or to be mailed out of the limits of the Republic, shall be mailed free of postage.

6. All letters, papers &c remaining in the different offices over thirty days, and the owner or owners cannot be found,—the Post Master shall cause a list of the names to whom the letters &c, are addressed to be advertised at the Post office in the different counties, and the Post Master in the different counties, shall advertise the same in each Town and village within the county, and all letters, papers, &c, thus advertised, shall pay a two fold postage if applied for;—should such letters, papers &c, so advertised not be applied for in ninety days after advertisement, all such letters shall be considered dead letters, and shall be forwarded to the Post Master General, Post office Department, Monrovia; and all such letters, packages &c, shall be opened by him; and should the Post Master General find in any letters or package, any amount of money or other valuables, it shall be his duty to issue notice of the same in each County, and Township, setting forth the name of the writer and every particular, and to whom directed; and should a claimant establish his claim before any Justice of the Peace, then said letter or package, and its contents shall be delivered over to the claimant, by paying ten per cent on the value of the same, with the several postages accruing, and in case no claimant come forward, then the letters or packages, and contents shall be the property of the Government.

7. The Post Master shall keep exact accounts of all letters, papers, packages &c, coming under his notice, by recording the same in a book kept for that purpose; and of all letters mailed and distributed, and of all monies received for postage or otherwise according to the Act; of all monies paid out, and shall pay over quarterly to the Post Master General. The Post Masters, except the Post Master General, shall receive as compensation twenty five per cent on all monies received. The Post Master General shall keep an exact account of business coming under his notice in a book kept for that purpose, and pay into the Treasurer, quarterly all monies received by him under this Act, and shall report quarterly to the Secretary to the Treasury on the reports from the several Departments, in reference to monies paid in to the Treasury:—also on all monies paid in by himself, and make a general report annually to the Legislature.

8. It is further enacted that it shall be unlawful for letters, papers, or packages to be deposited to be forwarded to any ports excepting to go by inland routes, other than at the Post office Departments;—any person or persons receiving or delivering letters, papers or packages in viola-

tion of this Act, and found guilty of the same before any Justice of the Peace of the Republic;—for the first offence shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one dollar and half and for each and every other offence shall be fined the sum of not less than two nor more than six dollars.

9. Should any Post Master be found guilty of betraying his trust by breaking the seal, or making way with any letter, paper or package addressed to another person, he shall be considered as guilty of felony, and shall be subject to the law as in such cases made and provided.

10. All letters from the following officers of the Government public business, shall be forwarded free of postage—The President and Vice President, Secretary of State—Secretary of the Treasury—Attorney General—Post Master General—Post Masters—Collectors of Customs—Superintendents, Registers—Brigade General—Brigade Major—Colonels of the regiments;—and during the session of the Legislature, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives—Secretary of the Senate—and Clerk of the House of Representatives.

11. It is further enacted that the President be and he is hereby requested and authorized to establish forthwith Post offices &c. as herein authorized, and he is hereby authorized to draw on the Treasury of this Republic for carrying out the same any amount not exceeding five hundred dollars; all Acts conflicting with this Article, be and the same are hereby repealed.

12. The pay of the Post Master General shall be an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars per annum.



AN ACT TO PREVENT THE DISTURBING OF RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SECTION 1. 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 person 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 of

enders, not exceeding twenty dollars, or commit him or them to the common jail of the county, or the nearest jail, for a term not exceeding fifteen days.

2. 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 ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA AND CLAY-ASHLAND TO OPEN A ROAD AND MAKE BRIDGES BETWEEN THE TWO SETTLEMENTS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.

SECTION 1. That, from and after the passage of this Act, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be and is hereby appropriated to assist the inhabitants of Clay-Ashland, and Virginia in building bridges; that is to say, for Virginia, seventy-five dollars, for a bridge near the Receptacle: to Clay-Ashland, one hundred and seventy-five dollars,—to assist to build bridges over Russell's and Hazel's creek; of durable materials.—Also the amount of one hundred dollars to the citizens of Harrisburg, opposite Millsburg—to assist them to open a good road, thrown up ten feet wide—to the large creek commonly called Mill Creek—provided, always, that the work is done and inspected by, at least two discreet person appointed by the President for that purpose.

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Whereas there is a Petition from several citizens of the different settlements of the Republic of Liberia, begging for aid in the erection of a jail, bridges, &c. &c. therefore:

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled. —

SECTION 1. That the sum of two thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated to build a jail in the county of Sinoe.

2. The above named jail is to be of the best materials; that is to say, the foundation to be of substantial rock, the walls to be of good, hard and well burnt bricks and where timber is required the best that can be procured is to be used,

3. The said jail is to be of the following dimensions; that is

to say, twenty seven feet square, the walls of the first story to be ten feet high, and eighteen inches thick; the second story to be nine feet high and fourteen inches thick; to be arranged as per plan accompanying the petition; the building to be under the supervision of the commissioner, provided for by the Act regulating public work.

4. It is further enacted, that there be an appropriation of one hundred and fifty dollars, to aid in the erecting of a bridge across the creek running between the settlements of Farmersville and Lexington, in the county of Sinoe, to be built of the very best materials that can be procured.

5. And further, that the sum of one hundred dollars, be, and the same is hereby appropriated to aid in the erection of a bridge across the creek running between the settlements of Bluntsville and Reads ville, to be built of the best materials that can be procured.

6. Further, that the sum of fifty dollars be appropriated, to aid the citizens of New Georgia in the erection of a bridge across a creek running in the rear of said settlement. And the President is hereby authorized to draw on the public Treasury for the same.

ARTICLE I.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMMON SCHOOLS.

| | SEC. |
|---|------|
| Common schools to be established in each settlement—committees of supervision to be appointed—their duties..... | 1 |
| Appropriations | 2 |
| Towns and villages empowered to levy taxes..... | 3 |

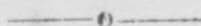
It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of in Legislature Assembled:—

1. That there be established in each settlement and township in the several counties of this Republic, at least one common school—said schools shall be under the entire control of the several school-committees hereinafter ordained to be elected. The said committees shall make rules for the government of the same and are authorized and enjoined to employ a faithful and competent instructor for each school. Each teacher shall furnish the committee at the end of each term a full and detailed report of the state of the school—the studies prosecuted, the number, age and sex

of scholars, the time of entrance, and all such other matters as may be deemed important. All such reports shall be laid before the Legislature.

2. That the annual sum of one thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated to be drawn out of the treasuries of the several counties. Said sums shall be appointed among the several towns according to their number of inhabitants, to be applied exclusively to the support of the common schools of this Republic.

3. That the several towns and villages in their municipal capacity are authorized to levy an annual tax upon all male inhabitants over the age of twenty-one years—and the amounts so raised shall be applied as directed in the second section of this Act. The several school committees are hereby authorized to draw quarterly for the amounts due to the schools of which they may have the supervision; *Provided*, however, that in no case shall any one teacher receive more than four hundred dollars a year.



ARTICLE I.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF FARMERS.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled:—

SECTION 1. That on application of any person whose business is exclusively that of farming, made either to the President or to any agent by him appointed—on the production of a certificate to the effect, from the Agricultural Committee of this Republic, and on such bond and personal security as shall be required, made payable to the Treasurer of this Republic, he shall have loaned to him at the lawful rate of interest in this Republic, 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.

2. The repayment of the aforesaid sums, shall be made in the following manner, viz:—the interest on the whole sum due to be paid yearly—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