

CHAP. XLII. — *An Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act allowing Compensation to the Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to the Delegates of the Territories, and repealing all other Laws on that Subject."* (a)

March 3, 1851.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act, no member of the Senate shall be entitled to receive compensation for his attendance at the Senate, in the recess of Congress, during such meeting of the Senate as may be called on the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and on the fourth day of March in every fourth year thereafter, other than the eight dollars per diem for attendance, now allowed by law: *Provided,* That this act shall not apply to a senator, not a member of either house of Congress at the expiration of the Congress preceding such called session of the Senate.

No senator to receive mileage for the session commencing March 4, 1853, and every four years thereafter, if he was a member of Congress in the preceding session.

APPROVED, March 3, 1851.

CHAP. XLIII. — *An Act to limit the Liability of Ship-Owners, and for other Purposes.* (b)

March 3, 1851.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That no owner or owners of any ship or vessel shall be subject or liable to answer for or make good to any one or more person or persons any loss or damage which may happen to any goods or merchandize whatsoever, which shall be shipped, taken in, or put on board any such ship or vessel, by reason or by means of any fire happening to or on board the said ship or vessel, unless such fire is caused by the design or neglect of such owner or owners: *Provided,* That nothing in this act contained shall prevent the parties from making such contract as they please, extending or limiting the liability of ship-owners.

Owners not liable for damage by fire not caused by their neglect.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if any shipper or shippers of platina, gold, gold dust, silver, bullion, or other precious metals, coins, jewelry, bills of any bank or public body, diamonds or other precious stones, shall lade the same on board of any ship or vessel, without, at the time of such lading, giving to the master, agent, owner or owners of the ship or vessel receiving the same, a note in writing of the true character and value thereof, and have the same entered on the bill of lading therefor, the master and owner or owners of the said vessel shall not be liable, as carriers thereof, in any form or manner. Nor shall any such master or owners be liable for any such valuable goods beyond the value and according to the character thereof so notified and entered.

Parties may vary their liabilities by contract.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the liability of the owner or owners of any ship or vessel, for any embezzlement, loss, or destruction, by the master, officers, mariners, passengers, or any other person or persons, of any property, goods, or merchandize, shipped or put on board of such ship or vessel, or for any loss, damage, or injury by collision, or for any act, matter, or thing, loss, damage, or forfeiture, done, occasioned, or incurred, without the privity or knowledge of such owner or owners, shall in no case exceed the amount or value of the interest of such owner or owners respectively, in such ship or vessel, and her freight then pending.

Owners not liable for certain valuable articles, unless notice is given, &c.

Limit of liability in case of such notice.

Liability of owners for certain losses not to exceed the value of their interest in the vessel.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That if any such embezzlement,

(a) For previous acts on the subject, see note in vol. i. p. 70, and Stat. 1850, ch. 90.

(b) See the case of *New Jersey Steam Navigation Co. v. Merchants Bank*, 6 Howard, R. 344.