

STATUTE III.

March 3, 1815.

CHAP. XC. — *An Act for the protection of the commerce of the United States against the Algerine cruisers.*

[Obsolete.]

Armed vessels authorized to be employed against the Algerines.

Vessels, &c. of the Algerines to be lawful prizes.

Private armed vessels may be commissioned to make reprisal, &c.

Proviso, that bond be given.

Captures by private armed vessels to be lawful prizes, &c.

WHEREAS the Dey of Algiers, on the coast of Barbary, has commenced a predatory warfare against the United States—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful fully to equip, officer, man and employ such of the armed vessels of the United States as may be judged requisite by the President of the United States for protecting effectually the commerce and seamen thereof on the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean and adjoining seas.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to instruct the commanders of the respective public vessels aforesaid, to subdue, seize, and make prize of all vessels, goods and effects of or belonging to the Dey of Algiers, or to his subjects, and to bring or send the same into port, to be proceeded against and distributed according to law; and, also, to cause to be done all such other acts of precaution or hostility, as the state of war will justify, and may in his opinion require.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That on the application of the owners of private armed vessels of the United States, the President of the United States may grant them special commissions in the form which he shall direct under the seal of the United States; and such private armed vessels, when so commissioned, shall have the like authority for subduing, seizing, taking and bringing into port any Algerine vessel, goods or effects, as the before-mentioned public armed vessels may by law have; and shall therein be subject to the instructions which may be given by the President of the United States for the regulation of their conduct; and their commissions shall be revokable at his pleasure. *Provided,* That before any commission shall be granted as aforesaid, the owner or owners of the vessels of which the same may be requested, and the commander thereof for the time being shall give bond to the United States, with at least two responsible sureties, not interested in such vessel, in the penal sum of seven thousand dollars, or if such vessel be provided with more than one hundred and fifty men, in the penal sum of fourteen thousand dollars, with condition for observing the treaties and laws of the United States, and the instructions which may be given as aforesaid, and also for satisfying all damages and injuries which shall be done contrary to the tenor thereof by such commissioned vessel, and for delivering up the commission when revoked by the President of the United States.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That any Algerine vessel, goods, or effects which may be so captured and brought into port, by any private armed vessel, of the United States, duly commissioned as aforesaid, may be adjudged good prize, and thereupon shall accrue to the owners, and officers, and men of the capturing vessel, and shall be distributed according to the agreement which shall have been made between them, or, in failure of such agreement, according to the discretion [of] the court having cognisance of the capture.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

STATUTE III.

March 3, 1815.

CHAP. XCI.—*An Act to amend the act entitled "An act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit, by laying a direct tax upon the United States, and to provide for assessing and collecting the same," and the act entitled "An act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on household furniture, and on gold and silver waches."*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That instead of the first day

[Repealed.]
Act of Jan. 9,
1815, ch. 21.
Act of Jan.
18, 1815, ch. 23.

of February next, prescribed by the "Act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government, and maintaining the public credit, by laying a direct tax upon the United States, and to provide for assessing and collecting the same," to the principal assessors to direct and cause the several assistant assessors to inquire after and concerning all lands and other objects taxed, the first day of April next be, and the same is hereby prescribed for that purpose. And that the time prescribed in the thirty-ninth section of the said act, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to notify the collectors of the several collection districts, to proceed to the collection of the direct tax, after the current year, shall be some day in the month of May, instead of the month of February.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the thirteenth section of the "Act to provide additional revenues for defraying the expenses of government and maintaining the public credit, by laying duties on household furniture, and on gold and silver watches," be, and the same is hereby so amended, as that the several acts, required to be performed, previously to, or during the month of February, in any year, may, and shall be performed, previously to, or during the month of May, in any year, as the case may be, which last month, instead of February, shall be taken as the time referred to therein, for taking the lists of property under a general assessment; and it shall be the duty of the principal assessor, in every year, within thirty days after the expiration of the said month of May, to make out and deliver to the collector, the lists as is required to be rendered by the said last mentioned act, to which this act is a supplement, and the like alteration hereby made in the tenth section of the said act, shall, and hereby is made in the other sections thereof, so far as any acts depending thereon are thereby required to be done.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the publication to be made by the collectors to be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury for that purpose, as prescribed and required in the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sections of the act to which this act is a supplement, shall, instead of being printed for sixty days, in at least one newspaper published in the state, as therein provided, be printed at least once a week, for eight weeks in succession, in every newspaper within the state, in which the laws of the United States are by public authority published; and for which printing the Secretary of the Treasury shall be, and he is hereby authorized, to pay and allow a price proportionate to the price of the other public printing done in said papers, and no more.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

First of April instead of the first of February fixed for notifying the collectors of the direct tax.

And May instead of February fixed for collection.

Act of Jan. 18, 1815, ch. 23.

The several acts required to be performed in February relative to duties on household furniture, are in every instance to be performed in May.

Duty of the principal assessor.

Collectors to publish once a week for eight weeks in succession instead of sixty days.

Terms.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCIII.—*An Act authorizing the board of navy commissioners to appoint clerks.* March 3, 1815.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the board of Navy Commissioners be, and they are hereby authorized to appoint two clerks, to be attached to their office, who shall receive for their services a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars each per annum.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That for this purpose the sum of two thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, March 3, 1815.

[Obsolete.]

Act of Feb. 7, 1815, ch. 35. Clerks to be appointed.

Appropriation.

STATUTE III.

CHAP. XCIV.—*An Act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage.* March 3, 1815.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it shall be lawful for

[Expired.]
Act of April 27, 1816, ch. 110.