

examination, in a summary manner, to discharge the soldier from such arrest, taking common bail, if required, in any case upon mesne process, and commit him to the applicant, or some other officer of the same corps.

APPROVED, May 28, 1798.

CHAP. XLVIII.—*An Act more effectually to protect the Commerce and Coasts of the United States.*

WHEREAS armed vessels sailing under authority or pretence of authority from the Republic of France, have committed depredations on the commerce of the United States, and have recently captured the vessels and property of citizens thereof, on and near the coasts, in violation of the law of nations, and treaties between the United States and the French nation. Therefore:

*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 the President of the United States, and he is hereby authorized to instruct and direct the commanders of the armed vessels belonging to the United States to seize, take and bring into any port of the United States, to be proceeded against according to the laws of nations, any such armed vessel which shall have committed or which shall be found hovering on the coasts of the United States, for the purpose of committing depredations on the vessels belonging to citizens thereof;—and also to retake any ship or vessel, of any citizen or citizens of the United States which may have been captured by any such armed vessel.

APPROVED, May 28, 1798.

CHAP. XLIX.—*An Act providing for the relief of persons imprisoned for Debts due to the United States.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That any person imprisoned upon execution issuing from any court of the United States, for a debt due to the United States, which he shall be unable to pay, may, at any time after commitment, make application, in writing, to the Secretary of the Treasury, stating the circumstances of his case, and his inability to discharge the debt; and it shall thereupon be lawful for the said Secretary to make, or require to be made, an examination and inquiry into the circumstances of the debtor, either by the oath or affirmation of the debtor, (which the said secretary, or any other person by him specially appointed, are hereby authorized to administer) or otherwise, as the said secretary shall deem necessary and expedient, to ascertain the truth; and upon proof being made to his satisfaction, that such debtor is unable to pay the debt for which he is imprisoned, and that he hath not concealed, or made any conveyance of his estate, in trust, for himself, or with an intent to defraud the United States, or deprive them of their legal priority, the said secretary is hereby authorized to receive from such debtor, any deed, assignment, or conveyance of the real or personal estate of such debtor, if any he hath, or any collateral security to the use of the United States; and upon a compliance by the debtor, with such terms and conditions as the said secretary may judge reasonable and proper, under all the circumstances of the case, it shall be lawful for the said secretary to issue his order, under his hand, to the keeper of the prison, directing him to discharge such debtor from his imprisonment under such execution, and he shall be accordingly discharged, and shall not be liable to be imprisoned again for the said debt; but the judgment shall remain good and sufficient in law, and may be satisfied out of any estate which may then, or at any time afterwards, belong to the debtor.

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STATUTE II.

May 28, 1798.

[Obsolete.]  
Preamble.  
1798, ch. 53.  
1798, ch. 67.  
1798, ch. 68.

President may issue instructions to the commanders of public armed ships to bring into port certain French armed vessels, and to make recaptures from them.

STATUTE II.

June 6, 1798.

March 3, 1817.  
ch. 114.

Insolvent to make application to the Secretary of the Treasury,

Ante, p. 48.

who may cause an examination to be made of the facts of the case;

and upon proof of certain facts, he may receive an assignment of the debtor's property;

and on the debtor's complying with the terms prescribed by the Secretary; he may order him to be discharged.

Penalty on swearing falsely under this act.

1796, ch. 38.

This act not to extend to the case of a penalty or of monies had and received.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person shall falsely take an oath or affirmation under this act, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and be subject to the pains and penalties provided in the third section of an act, intituled "An act for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt."

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the benefit of this act shall not be extended to any person imprisoned for any fine, forfeiture or penalty, incurred by a breach of any law of the United States, or for monies had and received by any officer, agent, or other person, for their use.

APPROVED, June 6, 1798.

STATUTE II.

June 6, 1798.

CHAP. L.—*An Act supplementary to an act intituled "An act for the relief of persons imprisoned for Debt."*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That any person imprisoned upon process issuing from any court of the United States in any civil action, against whom judgment has been, or shall be recovered, shall be entitled to the privileges and relief provided by an act, intituled "An act for the relief of persons imprisoned for debt," under the regulations and restrictions of the same act; after the expiration of thirty days from the time such judgment has been, or shall be recovered, though the creditor should not, within that time, sue out his execution, and charge the debtor therewith.

APPROVED, June 6, 1798.

STATUTE II.

June 12, 1798.

[Obsolete.]

Law barring loan office and final settlement certificates and indents of interest suspended for a year.  
Ante, p. 433.

Notification thereof to be published by the Secretary of the Treasury.

On settlement thereof the creditors may receive certain stock.

How the principal of the loan office and final settlement certificates and certain interest thereon shall be discharged.

CHAP. LI.—*An Act respecting loan office and final settlement certificates, indents of interest, and the unfunded or registered debt credited in the books of the Treasury.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That so much of the act, intituled "An act making further provision for the support of public credit, and for the redemption of the public debt," passed the third day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, as bars from settlement or allowance, certificates, commonly called loan office and final settlement certificates, and indents of interest, be, and the same is hereby suspended for the term of one year from and after the time of the passing of this act; a notification of which temporary suspension of the act of limitation shall be published by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the information of the holders of the said certificates, in one or more of the public papers in each of the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That on the liquidation and settlement of such of the said certificates, and indents of interest, as may be presented at the treasury, pursuant to this act, the creditors shall be allowed to receive certificates of funded three per cent. stock of the United States, equal to the said indents, and the arrearages of interest due on their said certificates, prior to the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the principal sums of the said loan office and final settlement certificates, with the interest thereon, since the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, shall and may be discharged, after liquidation at the treasury, by the payment of interest and reimbursement of principal, equal to the sums which would have been payable thereon, if the said certificates had been subscribed, pursuant to the acts making provision for the debts of the United States, contracted during the late war, and by the payment of