



ANNO VICESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. X.

An Act to Prevent the Desertion of Seamen.

[Passed 10th May, 1858.]

BE it Enacted, by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, as follows :—

I. Any person who shall, by words, or by any other means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, procure any Seaman to desert, or shall, by words or any other means whatsoever, attempt to procure, or persuade any Seaman to desert; and any person, who, knowing, or having reason to believe that any Seaman is about to desert, shall aid or assist him in deserting, or knowing, or having reason to believe any Seaman to be a deserter, shall conceal or harbor such deserter, or aid or assist such deserter in concealing himself, or aid or assist in his rescue, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, in a summary way, before any Stipendiary Justice of the Peace, be liable to be punished by a Fine not exceeding Five Pounds, or by imprisonment not exceeding Two Months, or both fine and imprisonment according to the discretion of such Justice.

Penalty for encouraging Seaman to desert.

II. The term Seaman shall, in all cases, mean every person employed or engaged to serve on board of any kind of Ship or Vessel navigated on the sea, whether in the Royal Navy or Merchant Shipping service; Provided that this Act shall not apply to vessels engaged in the Coasting Trade in this Colony.

Application of term Seaman.

III. That one half of every fine imposed and recovered under this Act, shall be paid to the person informing on and prosecuting such offender to conviction, and the other half of such fine shall be paid to the Receiver General for the use of the Colony: Provided always, that such deserter shall not be entitled to any part of such fine by becoming such informer.

Appropriation of Fines.

IV. That a reward of Three Pounds be paid by warrant of the Governor on the Receiver General, to any person for the apprehension of any deserter from any such ship or vessel belonging to the Royal Navy, upon producing a certificate of the Commander or Chief Officer of any such ship or vessel, or of any Stipendiary Magistrate, stating that such deserter has been delivered to him; and all persons are hereby authorized to apprehend any such deserter without warrant.

Rewards.