Security to be given previous to the clearing of armed merchant vessels.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That after notice of this act, at the several custom-houses, no armed merchant vessel of the United States shall receive a clearance or permit, or shall be suffered to depart therefrom, unless the owner or owners, and the master or commander of such vessel for the intended voyage, shall give bond, to the use of the United States, in a sum equal to double the value of such vessel, with condition, that such vessel shall not make or commit any depredation, outrage, unlawful assault, or unprovoked violence upon the high seas, against the vessel of any nation in amity with the United States; and that the guns, arms and ammunition of such vessel shall be returned within the United States, or otherwise accounted for, and shall not be sold or disposed of in any foreign port or place; and that such owner or owners, and the commander and crew of such merchant vessel, shall, in all things, observe and perform such further instructions in the premises, as the President of the United States shall establish and order, for the better government of the armed merchant vessels of the United States.

The President shall establish instructions for the government of armed merchant vessels.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized to establish and order suitable instructions to, and for, the armed merchant vessels of the United States, for the better governing and restraining the commanders and crews who shall be employed therein, and to prevent any outrage, cruelty or injury which they may be disposed to commit; a copy of which instructions shall be delivered by the collector of the customs to the commander of such vessel, when he shall give bond, as aforesaid. And it shall be the duty of the owner or owners, and commander and crew, for the time being, of such armed merchant vessel of the United States, at each return to any port of the United States, to make report to the collector thereof of any rencounter which shall have happened with any foreign vessel, and of the state of the company and crew of any vessel which they shall have subdued or captured; and the persons of such crew or company shall be delivered to the care of such collector, who, with the aid of the marshal of the same district, or the nearest military officer of the United States, or of the civil or military officers of any state, shall take suitable care for the restraint, preservation and comfort of such persons, at the expense of the United States, until the pleasure of the President of the United States shall be known concerning them.

Report to be made to the collector on their return into the United States.

Disposal of prisoners.

Limitation of the act.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue and be in force for the term of one year, and until the end of the next session of Congress thereafter.

The President may instruct the armed merchant vessels to submit to searches, &c. when French armed vessels shall observe the law of nations, &c.

Sec. 6. *Provided, and be it further enacted*, That whenever the government of France, and all persons acting by, or under their authority, shall disavow, and shall cause the commanders and crews of all armed French vessels to refrain from the lawless depredations and outrages hitherto encouraged and authorized by that government against the merchant vessel[s] of the United States, and shall cause the laws of nations to be observed by the said armed French vessels, the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby authorized to instruct the commanders and crews of the merchant vessels of the United States to submit to any regular search by the commanders or crews of French vessels, and to refrain from any force or capture to be exercised by virtue hereof.

Approved, June 25, 1798.

Statute II.

June 27, 1798.

[Obsolete.]

Penalty on forging or uttering counterfeit bills, notes, or-

Chap. LXI.—*An Act to punish frauds committed on the Bank of the United States.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That if any person shall falsely make, alter, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be

ders or checks, by or upon the bank of the U. States.

falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, altering, forging or counterfeiting any bill or note issued by order of the president, directors and company of the Bank of the United States, and signed by the president, and countersigned by the cashier thereof, or any order or check on the said cashier or corporation, for the payment of money, with intention to defraud the said corporation, or any other body politic or person, or shall utter or publish, as true, any false, altered, forged or counterfeited bill or note issued by order of the president, directors and company of the Bank of the United States, and signed by the president, and countersigned by the cashier thereof, or any order or check on the said cashier or corporation, for the payment of money, with intention to defraud the said corporation, or any other body politic or person, knowing the same to be falsely altered, forged or counterfeited, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and being thereof convicted, according to the due course of law, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned and kept at hard labour for a period not less than three years, nor more than ten years, or shall be imprisoned not exceeding ten years, and fined not exceeding five thousand dollars: *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to deprive the courts of the individual states of a jurisdiction under the laws of the several states over the offences declared punishable by this act.

Approved, June 27, 1798.

Statute II.

June 28, 1798.

Chap. LXII.—*An Act in addition to the act more effectually to protect the Commerce and Coasts of the United States.*

[Obsolete.]

Captured armed vessels and goods may be condemned in the district courts.

Ante, p. 561.
Ante, p. 578.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That all such armed vessels as may be seized, taken and brought into any port of the United States, in pursuance of the act, entitled "An act more effectually to protect the commerce and coasts of the United States," with the apparel, guns and appurtenances of such vessels, and the goods and effects, which shall be found on board the same, shall be liable to forfeiture and condemnation, and may be libelled and proceeded against in the district courts of the United States, for the district into which the same may be brought. *Provided*, that such forfeiture shall not extend to any goods or effects, the property of any citizen or person resident within the United States, and which shall have been before taken by the crew of such captured vessel.

Forfeiture not to extend to captured property of citizens or residents in the U. States.

Recaptured property of citizens and residents to be restored, paying salvage.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any vessel the property of, or employed by any citizen of the United States, or person resident therein, or any goods or effects belonging to any such citizen or resident shall be re-captured by any public armed vessel of the United States, the same shall be restored to the former owner or owners, upon due proof, he or they paying and allowing, as and for salvage to the re-captors, one eighth part of the value of such vessel, goods and effects, free of all deductions and expenses.

Distribution of prizes.

Salvage to belong wholly to the officers and crew.

Court condemning may order a sale, &c.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever any armed vessel, captured and condemned, as aforesaid, shall have been of superior or equal force to the public armed vessel of the United States by which such capture shall have been made, the forfeiture shall be and accrue wholly to the captors: and in other cases, one half thereof shall be to the use of the United States, and the residue to the captors. And all salvage which shall be allowed and recovered upon any vessel, goods or effects re-captured, and to be restored, as aforesaid, shall belong wholly to the officers and crew of the public armed vessel of the United States by which such re-capture shall be made: and the court before whom any condemnation shall be had, as aforesaid, shall and may order the sale of