CHAP. CCLXXVI.—*An Act regulating Judicial Proceedings in certain Cases, for the Protection of Officers and Agents of the Government, and for the better Defence of the Treasury against unlawful Claims.* July 27, 1868.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all the provisions of section eight of the act of July twenty-eight, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, entitled "An act to protect the revenue, and for other purposes," and the forms and modes by that section and the twelfth section of the act of March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, therein referred to, prescribed for prosecuting suits, withholding executions, and paying judgments against officers of the United States, or other persons engaged in executing the acts relative to captured and abandoned property, shall extend and be applied to all suits and proceedings (except those in behalf of the United States) which have been brought, or may hereafter be brought, against any officer or agent of the government, civil or military, for acts done during the rebellion while acting by virtue or under color of his office or employment; and every defendant in such suit or proceeding having made full defence thereto, and having notified the Attorney-General of the United States to appear and defend the same, shall be entitled to the full benefit and protection provided in said section for officers and agents of the government engaged in the collection of the public revenue; and any defendant being aggrieved by any order or direction, certificate, ruling, or judgment of any court made or had in any such proceeding, may except thereto and appeal therefrom to the Supreme Court of the United States, and have the questions arising there heard and determined.

Protection extended to officers and agents of the government in suits against them for acts done during the rebellion by virtue of their office. 1866, ch. 298, § 8. Vol. xiv. p. 329. 1863, ch. 76, § 12. Vol. xii. p. 741.

Right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That no action or suit shall be maintained in any court of the United States, or of any State thereof, in the name or in the behalf or interest of any alien, against the United States, or any person, for or on account of any act done or omitted to be done by such person as an officer or agent of the United States, in the administration of the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for the collection of abandoned property and for the prevention of frauds in insurrectionary districts within the United States," approved March twelve, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, or of the act of Congress entitled "An act in addition to the several acts concerning commercial intercourse between loyal and insurrectionary States, and to provide for the collection of captured and abandoned property, and the prevention of frauds in States declared in insurrection," approved July two, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, or in virtue or under color of the acts of Congress aforesaid, or any other acts of Congress relative to the said insurrectionary States, or to persons or property therein; and to any action or suit which may have been heretofore, or shall hereafter be, instituted by any alien against the United States, or any such person as aforesaid, on account of any act done or omitted to be done as aforesaid, the defendant may and shall plead or allege in bar thereof, that such act was done, or omitted to be done, in the administration of one of the acts of Congress aforesaid, or in virtue or under color thereof, and such plea or allegation, if the fact be sustained by the proof, shall be, and shall be deemed and adjudged in law to be, a complete and conclusive bar to any such suit or action: *Provided*, That this section shall not be construed so as to deprive aliens who are citizens or subjects of any government which accords to citizens of the United States the right to prosecute claims against such government in its courts, of the privilege of prosecuting claims against the United States in the court of claims, as now provided by law.

No suit to be maintained in any United States or State court by or for an alien against the United States or any person for any act done, &c. under certain acts of Congress. 1863, ch. 120. Vol. xii. p. 820. 1864, ch. 225. Vol. xiii. p. 375.

What may be pleaded, &c. in bar of such suit.

Certain aliens may prosecute claims against the United States in the court of claims.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it is hereby declared to have been the true intent and meaning of the act approved March twelfth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, entitled "An act to provide for the collection of abandoned property and for the prevention of frauds in insur-

1863, ch. 120. Vol. xii. p. 820. Remedy given by act in cases

of seizure under said act, declared to be exclusive.

rectionary districts within the United States," that the remedy given in cases of seizure made under said act, by preferring claim in the court of claims, should be exclusive, precluding the owner of any property taken by agents of the Treasury Department as abandoned or captured property in virtue or under color of said act from suit at common law, or any other mode of redress whatever, before any court or tribunal other than said court of claims; and in all cases in which suits of trespass, replevin, detinue, or any other form of action may have been brought and are now pending, or shall hereafter be brought against any person for or on account of private property taken by such person as an officer or agent of the United States, in virtue or under color of the act aforesaid, or the act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, entitled "An act in addition to the several acts concerning commercial intercourse between loyal and insurrectionary States, and to provide for the collection of captured and abandoned property, and the prevention of frauds in States declared in insurrection," the defendant may and shall plead or allege in bar thereof that such act was done or omitted to be done by him as an officer or agent of the United States in the administration of one of the acts of Congress aforesaid, or in virtue or under color thereof, and such plea or allegation, if the fact be sustained by the proof, shall be, and shall be deemed and adjudged in law to be, a complete and conclusive bar to any such suit or action: *Provided, however*, That no judgment, recovered in accordance with this act, shall be paid by the United States, unless the amount received by the defendant as the proceeds of the transaction which was the foundation of the suit shall have been paid into the treasury, except upon an appropriation duly made therefor after a full examination of the claim upon its merits.

Provision as to suits under that act and the act of 1864, ch. 225. Vol. xiii. p. 375.

Proviso as to payment by the United States of judgments under this act.

APPROVED, July 27, 1868.