

STATUTE II.

March 2, 1831.

CHAP. XCVIII.—*An Act to regulate the foreign and coasting trade on the northern, north-eastern, and north-western frontiers of the United States, and for other purposes. (a)*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That, from, and after the first day of April next, no custom-house fees shall be levied or collected on any raft, flat, boat, or vessel, of the United States, entering otherwise than by sea, at any port of the United States on the rivers and lakes on our northern, north-eastern, and north-western frontiers.*

Custom-house fees on United States vessels.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That, from and after the first day of April next, the same and no higher tonnage duties and custom-house charges of any kind shall be levied and collected on any British colonial raft, flat, boat, or vessel, entering otherwise than by sea at any port of the United States on the rivers and lakes on our northern, north-eastern and north-western frontiers, than may be levied and collected on any raft, flat, boat, or vessel, entering otherwise than by sea at any of the ports of the British possessions on our northern, north-eastern and north-western frontiers: and that, from and after the first day of April next, no higher discriminating duty shall be levied or collected on merchandise imported into the United States in the ports aforesaid, and otherwise than by sea, than may be levied and collected on merchandise when imported in like manner otherwise than by sea, into the British possessions on our northern, north-eastern and north-western frontiers from the United States.*

Tonnage duties, &c. on British vessels.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passage of this act, any boat, sloop, or other vessel, of the United States, navigating the waters on our northern, north-eastern and north-western frontiers, otherwise than by sea, shall be enrolled and licensed in such form as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury; which enrolment and license shall authorize any such boat, sloop, or other vessel, to be employed either in the coasting or foreign trade; and no certificate of registry shall be required for vessels so employed on said frontiers; *Provided*, That such boat, sloop, or vessel, shall be in every other respect liable to the rules, regulations, and penalties, now in force, relating to registered vessels on our northern, north-eastern and north-western frontiers.*

License, &c. to United States vessels.

Proviso.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That in lieu of the fees, emoluments, salary, and commissions, now allowed by law to any collector or surveyor of any district on our northern, north-eastern and north-western lakes and rivers, each collector or surveyor, as aforesaid, shall receive, annually, in full compensation for these services, an amount equal to the entire compensation received by such officer during the past year.*

Compensation to collector.

APPROVED, March 2, 1831.

STATUTE II.

March 2, 1831.

CHAP. XCIX.—*An Act declaratory of the law concerning contempts of court. (b)*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the power of the several*

(a) See notes of the acts relating to the coasting trade, vol. iii. p. 492.

(b) The decisions of the courts of the United States on the law applicable to contempts of courts are,

The courts of the United States have no common law jurisdiction of crimes against the United States. But, independent of statutes, the courts of the United States have power to fine for contempts, and imprison for contumacy, and to enforce obedience to their orders, &c. *The United States v. Hudson et al.*, 7 Cranch, 32; 2 Cond. Rep. 405.

The Supreme Court will not grant a habeas corpus, to bring before it the body of a person confined for a contempt of a circuit court of the United States. Nor, in such a case, will the court inquire into the cause of the commitment of such person. *Ex parte Kearney*, 7 Wheat. 38; 5 Cond. Rep. 225.

Where a court commits a person for a contempt, their adjudication is a conviction; and their commitment, in consequence, is execution. *Ibid.*