

ACTS OF THE SECOND CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

Passed at the second session, which was begun and held at the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the fifth day of November, 1792, and ended on the second day of March, 1793.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, President, JOHN ADAMS, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate, JOHN LANGDON, President of the Senate pro tempore, on the second of March 1793, JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

STATUTE II.

CHAPTER I.—*An Act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels.*^(a) Dec. 31, 1792.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That ships or vessels shall be

(a) The decisions of the courts of the United States on the acts relating to the registering of ships and vessels, have been:

An American registered vessel, in part transferred by grant while at sea, to an American citizen, and re-sold to her original owners on her return into port before her entry, does not, by that operation, lose her privilege as an American bottom, nor become subject to foreign duties. *The United States v. Willings and Francis*, 4 Cranch, 48; 2 Cond. Rep. 20.

In case of alienation to a foreigner, the privileges of an American bottom are ipso facto forfeited; but in case of alienation to a citizen, they are not forfeited until after she ought to have been registered anew; and the oath which entitles her owner to enter as an American bottom, does not require such new register. *Ibid.*

The register is the only document which needs be on board during a period of universal peace, in compliance with the warranty of national character. *Catlett v. The Pacific Ins. Comp.*, Paine's C. C. R. 594.

If one of two partners in a house of trade in the United States, obtain a register for a vessel as a vessel of the United States, by swearing that he, together with his partner of the city of New York, are the sole owners of the vessel, when, in fact, his partner is domicilled in England, the vessel is liable to forfeiture under the act of December 31, 1792. *The Venus*, 8 Cranch, 253; 3 Cond. Rep. 109.

A transfer of a vessel of the United States to a foreign subject in a foreign port, for the purpose of evading the revenue laws of a foreign country with an understanding that she is to be afterwards re-conveyed to the former owner, works a forfeiture of the vessel under the 16th section of the registering act of December 31, 1792, unless the transfer is made known in the manner prescribed by the 7th section of the act. *The Margaret*, 9 Wheat. 421; 5 Cond. Rep. 638.

The proviso in the 16th section of the registry act, being by way of exception from the enacting clause, need not be taken notice of in a libel filed to enforce a forfeiture. The proviso applies only to the case of a part owner. *Ibid.*

By the law of the United States relating to the registry and enrolling of vessels, the inaccurate recital of the certificate of registry on a bill of sale does not, as in England, avoid the sale; but merely deprives the vessel of her American character. *Phillips v. Ledley*, 1 Wash. C. C. R. 226.

If a registered vessel is assigned to a foreigner, she is only deprived of her American character. The sale of a licensed vessel to a foreigner is not void, but the vessel is liable to forfeiture. *Ibid.*

Under the act of Congress of December 31, 1792, which declares, that "if a false oath be taken to procure a register for a vessel, the vessel, or its value, shall be forfeited," the United States have an election to proceed against the vessel as forfeited, or against the person who took the false oath, for its value. But until that election is made, the property does not vest in the United States, and the United States cannot maintain an action for money had and received against the assignees of the person who took the oath, and who became bankrupt; the assignees having sold the vessel and recovered the purchase money before the seizure of the vessel. *The United States v. Grundy et al.*, 3 Cranch, 337; 1 Cond. Rep. 554.

Under the 27th section of the registry act of 1792, vessels which have not been previously registered, as well as those which have been previously registered, may be forfeited by a fraudulent use of the certificate of register. *The Neptune*, 3 Wheat. 601; 4 Cond. Rep. 351.

A citizen of the United States, resident in a foreign country, may, under the act of December 31, 1792, command a registered vessel of the United States, without her right to the payment of domestic duties being affected thereby: but under the same act he cannot be the owner of a vessel of the United States. *United States v. Gillies*, Peters's C. C. R. 159.

By the licensing act of February 18, 1793, no coaster can be sold in a foreign port, unless her license

deemed of the United States.

Sep. 1, 1789, ch. 11.

to enjoy the privileges only while owned, &c. by citizens of U. States.

What ships or vessels may be registered.

June 27, 1797, ch. 5.
March 27, 1804, ch. 52.

Registry benefits of, confined to actual residents,

unless in capacity of consul or agent for a house of trade.

Ships or vessels by whom registered.

Ships or vessels name &c. to be painted on the stern, &c.

forfeiture on neglect thereof.

vessels, which shall have been registered by virtue of the act, intituled "An act for registering and clearing vessels, regulating the coasting trade, and for other purposes," and those which after the last day of March next, shall be registered, pursuant to this act, and no other (except such as shall be duly qualified, according to law, for carrying on the coasting trade and fisheries, or one of them) shall be denominated and deemed ships or vessels of the United States, entitled to the benefits and privileges appertaining to such ships or vessels: *Provided*, That they shall not continue to enjoy the same, longer than they shall continue to be wholly owned, and to be commanded by a citizen or citizens of the said states.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That ships or vessels built within the United States, whether before or after, the fourth of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and belonging wholly to a citizen or citizens thereof, or not built within the said states, but on the sixteenth day of May, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, belonging and thenceforth continuing to belong to a citizen or citizens thereof, and ships or vessels which may hereafter be captured in war, by such citizen or citizens, and lawfully condemned as prize, or which have been, or may be adjudged to be forfeited for a breach of the laws of the United States, being wholly owned by a citizen or citizens thereof, and no other, may be registered as herein after directed: *Provided*, That no such ship or vessel shall be entitled to be so registered, or if registered, to the benefits thereof, if owned in whole, or in part, by any citizen of the United States, who usually resides in a foreign country, during the continuance of such residence, unless such citizen be in the capacity of a consul of the United States, or an agent for, and a partner in, some house of trade or co-partnership, consisting of citizens of the said states actually carrying on trade within the said states: *And provided further*, That no ship or vessel, built within the United States, prior to the said sixteenth day of May, which was not then owned wholly, or in part, by a citizen or citizens of the United States, shall be capable of being registered, by virtue of any transfer to a citizen or citizens, which may hereafter be made, unless by way of prize or forfeiture: *Provided nevertheless*, That this shall not be construed to prevent the registering anew, of any ship or vessel, which was before registered, pursuant to the act before mentioned.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That every ship or vessel, hereafter to be registered (except as is herein after provided) shall be registered by the collector of the district in which shall be comprehended the port to which such ship or vessel shall belong, at the time of her registry, which port shall be deemed to be that, at or nearest to which, the owner, if there be but one, or if more than one, the husband or acting and managing owner of such ship or vessel, usually resides. And the name of the said ship or vessel, and of the port to which she shall so belong, shall be painted on her stern, on a black ground, in white letters, of not less than three inches in length. And if any ship or vessel of the United States, shall be found, without having her name, and the name of the port, to which she belongs, painted in manner aforesaid, the owner or owners shall forfeit fifty dollars; one half to the person

be previously surrendered, nor is her American character changed by such transfer. But if she be condemned for a violation of that law, and sold under an order of court, she may become foreign property. *United States v. The Hawke*, Bee's Adm. Rep. 34. See also the *United States v. The Brig Burdett*, 9 Peters, 682.

By the act of 1793, no registered ship or vessel can, while she remains registered, engage in the whale fisheries, but she must surrender her register, and be enrolled and licensed for the fisheries. *The United States v. Rogers*, 3 Sumner's C. C. R. 342.

By the arrival of a vessel sailing under a temporary register at her home port, within the meaning of the 3d section of the coasting act of 1793, is meant an arrival in the regular course of an employment, at one of the termini of her voyage, or for an object connected with, and making part of, the business in which she is engaged. *United States v. Shackford*, Ware's D. C. R. 171.

giving the information thereof; the other half to the use of the United States.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That in order to the registry of any ship or vessel, an oath or affirmation shall be taken and subscribed by the owner, or by one of the owners thereof, before the officer authorized to make such registry, who is hereby empowered to administer the same, declaring, according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person so swearing or affirming, the name of such ship or vessel, her burthen, the place where she was built, if built within the United States, and the year in which she was built; and if built within the United States, before the said sixteenth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, that she was then owned wholly, or in part, by a citizen or citizens of the United States; and if not built within the said states, that she was, on the said sixteenth day of May, and ever since, hath continued to be, the entire property of a citizen or citizens of the United States; or that she was, at some time posterior to the time when this act shall take effect, (specifying the said time) captured in war by a citizen or citizens of the said states, and lawfully condemned as prize (producing a copy of the sentence of condemnation, authenticated in the usual forms) or that she has been adjudged to be forfeited for a breach of the laws of the United States, (producing a like copy of the sentence whereby she shall have been so adjudged) and declaring his or her name and place of abode, and if he or she be the sole owner of the said ship or vessel that such is the case; or if there be another owner or other owners, that there is or are such other owner or owners, specifying his, her, or their name or names, and place or places of abode, and that he, she, or they, as the case may be, so swearing or affirming, is or are citizens of the United States; and where an owner resides in a foreign country, in the capacity of a consul of the United States, or as an agent for, and a partner in, a house or co-partnership, consisting of citizens of the United States, and actually carrying on trade within the United States, that such is the case, and that there is no subject or citizen of any foreign prince or state, directly, or indirectly, by way of trust, confidence, or otherwise, interested in such ship or vessel, or in the profits, or issues thereof; and that the master, or commander thereof is a citizen, naming the said master, or commander, and stating the means whereby, or manner in which, he is so a citizen. And in case, any of the matters of fact, in the said oath or affirmation alleged, which shall be within the knowledge of the party, so swearing, or affirming, shall not be true, there shall be a forfeiture of the ship or vessel, together with her tackle, furniture and apparel, in respect to which, the same shall have been made, or of the value thereof, to be recovered, with costs of suit, of the person, by whom such oath or affirmation shall have been made: *Provided always*, That if the master, or person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, shall be within the district aforesaid, when application shall be made for registering the same, he shall, himself, make oath, or affirmation, instead of the said owner, touching his being a citizen, and the means whereby, or manner in which, he is so a citizen; in which case, if what the said master, or person having the said charge or command, shall so swear or affirm, shall not be true, the forfeiture aforesaid shall not be incurred, but he shall, himself, forfeit and pay, by reason thereof, the sum of one thousand dollars: *And provided further*, That in the case of a ship, or vessel, built within the United States, prior to the sixteenth day of May aforesaid, which was not then owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States, but which, by virtue of a transfer to such citizen or citizens, shall have been registered, pursuant to the act before mentioned, the oath or affirmation, hereby required, shall and may be varied, ac-

Registry how to be obtained,

substance of the oath to be taken before registering officer.

Substance of oath for obtaining registry of ships or vessels.

Forfeiture of vessel, &c. on swearing falsely.

How recovered.

In what cases masters of vessels, &c. shall make oath as to citizenship

and, if not true, to forfeit \$1000.

How the oath may be varied.

cording to the truth of the case, as often as it shall be requisite to grant a new register for such ship or vessel.

Like oath to be taken by other owners (if any) than the applicant, &c.

within 90 days.

Before whom,

on failure, certificate of registry forfeited.

Ships, &c. how and by whom measured,

1790, ch. 35. certificate thereof given.

In what cases, ships, &c. not to be measured anew.

Bonds, how and by whom given, for faithful use of certificate of registry, &c.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of every owner, resident within the United States, of any ship or vessel, to which a certificate of registry may be granted, (in case there be more than one such owner) to transmit to the collector, who may have granted the same, a like oath or affirmation with that herein before directed to be taken and subscribed by the owner, on whose application, such certificate shall have been granted; and within ninety days after the same may have been so granted; which oath or affirmation may, at the option of the party, be taken and subscribed either before the said collector, or before the collector of some other district, or a judge of the supreme, or a district court of the United States, or of a superior court of original jurisdiction of some one of the states. And if such oath or affirmation shall not be taken, subscribed and transmitted, as is herein required, the certificate of registry, granted to such ship or vessel, shall be forfeit and void.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That before any ship or vessel shall be registered, she shall be measured by a surveyor, if there be one, or by the person he shall appoint, at the port or place where the said ship or vessel may be, and if there be none, by such person as the collector of the district, within which she may be, shall appoint, according to the rule prescribed by the forty-third section of the act, intituled "An act to provide more effectually, for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels." And the officer, or person, by whom such admeasurement shall be made, shall, for the information of, and as a voucher to the officer by whom the registry is to be made, grant a certificate, specifying the built of such ship or vessel, her number of decks and masts, her length, breadth, depth, the number of tons she measures, and such other particulars as are usually descriptive of the identity of a ship or vessel; and that her name, and the place to which she belongs, are painted on her stern, in manner required by the third section of this act: which certificate shall be countersigned by an owner, or by the master of such ship or vessel, or by some other person who shall attend her admeasurement, on behalf of her owner or owners, in testimony of the truth of the particulars therein contained; without which, the said certificate shall not be valid. But in all cases, where a ship or vessel has before been registered, as a ship or vessel of the United States, it shall not be necessary to measure her anew, for the purpose of obtaining another register; except such ship or vessel shall have undergone some alteration, as to her burthen, subsequent to the time of her former registry.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That, previous to the registry of any ship or vessel, the husband or acting and managing owner, together with the master thereof, and one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the collector of the district, whose duty it is to make such registry, shall become bound to the United States, if such ship or vessel shall be of burthen not exceeding fifty tons, in the sum of four hundred dollars; if of burthen above fifty tons, and not exceeding one hundred, in the sum of eight hundred dollars; if of burthen above one hundred tons, and not exceeding two hundred, in the sum of twelve hundred dollars; if of burthen above two hundred tons, and not exceeding three hundred, in the sum of sixteen hundred dollars; and if of burthen exceeding three hundred tons, in the sum of two thousand dollars; with condition, in each case, that the certificate of such registry, shall be solely used for the ship, or vessel, for which it is granted, and shall not be sold, lent, or otherwise disposed of, to any person or persons whomsoever; and that, in case such ship or vessel shall be lost, or taken by an enemy, burnt, or

broken up, or shall be otherwise prevented from returning to the port to which she may belong, the said certificate, if preserved, shall be delivered up, within eight days after the arrival of the master, or person, having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, within any district of the United States, to the collector of such district: And that if any foreigner, or any person or persons, for the use and benefit of such foreigner, shall purchase, or otherwise become entitled to the whole, or any part or share of, or interest in, such ship or vessel, the same being within a district of the United States, the said certificate shall, in such case, within seven days after such purchase, change, or transfer of property, be delivered up to the collector of the said district; and that if any such purchase, change, or transfer of property, shall happen, when such ship or vessel shall be at any foreign port or place, or at sea, then the said master, or person having the charge or command thereof, shall, within eight days after his arrival within any district of the United States, deliver up the said certificate to the collector of such district; and every such certificate, so delivered up, shall be forthwith transmitted to the register of the treasury, to be cancelled, who, if the same shall have been delivered up to a collector, other than of the district in which it was granted, shall cause notice of such delivery to be given to the collector of the said district.

In what case certificate of registry given up, &c.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That in order to the registry of any ship or vessel, which, after the last day of March next, shall be built within the United States, it shall be necessary to produce a certificate, under the hand of the principal or master carpenter, by whom, or under whose direction, the said ship or vessel shall have been built, testifying, that she was built by him, or under his direction, and specifying the place where, the time when, and the person or persons for whom, and describing her built, number of decks and masts, length, breadth, depth, tonnage, and such other circumstances, as are usually descriptive of the identity of a ship or vessel; which certificate shall be sufficient to authorize the removal of a new vessel, from the district where she may be built, to another district in the same, or an adjoining state, where the owner or owners actually reside, provided it be with ballast only.

Vessels built in U. S. after March 1793, how to obtain register.
March 2, 1803, ch. 18.
March 26, 1810, ch. 19.
March 3, 1813, ch. 50.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the several matters herein before required, having been complied with, in order to the registering of any ship or vessel, the collector of the district comprehending the port to which she shall belong, shall make, and keep, in some proper book, a record or registry thereof, and shall grant an abstract or certificate of such record or registry, as nearly as may be, in the form following:

Collector to keep record of registry,

"In pursuance of an act of the Congress of the United States of America, intituled 'An act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels,' [inserting here the name, occupation, and place of abode, of the person by whom the oath or affirmation aforesaid, shall have been made] having taken or subscribed the oath (or affirmation) required by the said act, and having sworn (or affirmed) that he (or she, and if more than one owner, adding the words, 'together with,' and the name or names, occupation or occupations, place or places of abode, of the other owner or owners) is (or are) the only owner (or owners) of the ship or vessel, called the [inserting here her name] of [inserting here the port to which she may belong] whereof [inserting here the name of the master] is at present master, and is a citizen of the United States, and that the said ship or vessel was [inserting here, when and where built] and [inserting here, the name and office, if any, of the person by whom she shall have been surveyed or admeasured] having certified that the said ship or vessel has [inserting here the number of decks] and [inserting here, the number of masts] and that her length is [inserting here, the number of feet] her breadth [inserting here, the num-

and grant certificate thereof.

Form of certificate of registry.

ber of feet] her depth [inserting here, the number of feet] and that she measures [inserting here, her number of tons] that she is [describing here, the particular kind of vessel, whether ship, brigantine, snow, schooner, sloop, or whatever else, together with her built, and specifying whether she has any, or no gallery or head] and the said [naming the owner, or the master, or other person, acting in behalf of the owner or owners, by whom the certificate of admeasurement shall have been countersigned, as aforesaid] having agreed to the description and admeasurement, above specified, and sufficient security having been given, according to the said act, the said ship or vessel has been duly registered at the port of [naming the port where registered.] Given under my hand and seal, at [naming the said port] this [inserting the particular day] day of [naming the month] in the year [specifying the number of the year, in words at length;"] *Provided*, That if the master, or person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, shall, himself, have made oath or affirmation touching his being a citizen, the wording of the said certificate shall be varied so as to be conformable to the truth of the case: *And Provided*, That where a new certificate of registry is granted, in consequence of any transfer of a ship or vessel, the words shall be so varied, as to refer to the former certificate of registry, for her admeasurement.

How certificate of registry may be varied.

Secretary of the Treasury, to furnish forms of certificates of registry.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the treasury, to cause to be prepared, and transmitted, from time to time, to the collectors of the several districts, a sufficient number of forms of the said certificates of registry, attested under the seal of the treasury, and the hand of the register thereof, with proper blanks, to be filled by the said collectors, respectively, by whom also, the said certificates shall be signed and sealed, before they shall be issued; and where there is a naval officer at any port, they shall be countersigned by him; and where there is a surveyor, but no naval officer, they shall be countersigned by him; and a copy of each, shall be transmitted to the said register, who shall cause a record to be kept of the same.

Citizens purchasing vessels out of their proper district how to obtain register.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That where any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall purchase, or become owner or owners of any ship or vessel, entitled to be registered, by virtue of this act, such ship or vessel, being within any district, other than the one, in which he or they usually reside, such ship or vessel shall be entitled to be registered by the collector of the district, where such ship or vessel may be, at the time of his or their becoming owner or owners thereof, upon his or their complying with the provisions herein before prescribed, in order to the registry of ships or vessels: And the oath or affirmation which is required to be taken, may, at the option of such owner or owners, be taken, either before the collector of the district, comprehending the port to which such ship or vessel may belong, or before the collector of the district, within which, such ship or vessel may be, either of whom, is hereby empowered to administer the same: *Provided nevertheless*, That whenever such ship or vessel shall arrive within the district comprehending the port to which such ship or vessel shall belong, the certificate of registry, which shall have been obtained, as aforesaid, shall be delivered up to the collector of such district, who, upon the requisites of this act, in order to the registry of ships or vessels, being complied with, shall grant a new one, in lieu of the first; and the certificate, so delivered up, shall forthwith be returned by the collector who shall receive the same, to the collector who shall have granted it: and if the said first mentioned certificate of registry, shall not be delivered up, as above directed, the owner or owners, and the master of such ship or vessel, at the time of her said arrival within the district comprehending the port to which such ship or vessel may belong, shall, severally, forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered, with costs of suit; and

March 3, 1813, ch. 50.

To be delivered on arriving at their proper port to the collector, who to grant a new one.

the said certificate of registry shall be thenceforth void. And in case, any of the matters of fact, in the said oath or affirmation alleged, which shall be within the knowledge of the party, so swearing or affirming, shall not be true, there shall be a forfeiture of the ship or vessel, together with her tackle, furniture and apparel, in respect to which, the same shall have been made, or of the value thereof, to be recovered, with costs of suit, of the person by whom such oath or affirmation shall have been made: *Provided always*, That if the master, or person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, shall be within the district aforesaid, when application shall be made for registering the same, he shall, himself, make oath or affirmation, instead of the said owner, touching his being a citizen, and the means whereby, or manner in which, he is so a citizen; in which case, if what the said master, or person having the said charge or command, shall so swear or affirm, shall not be true, the forfeiture aforesaid shall not be incurred, but he shall, himself, forfeit and pay, by reason thereof, the sum of one thousand dollars.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That when any ship or vessel, entitled to be registered, pursuant to this act, shall be purchased by an agent or attorney for, or on account of a citizen or citizens of the United States, such ship or vessel, being in a district of the United States, more than fifty miles distant, taking the nearest usual route by land, from the one comprehending the port to which, by virtue of such purchase, and by force of this act, such ship or vessel ought to be deemed to belong, it shall be lawful for the collector of the district, where such ship or vessel may be, and he is hereby required, upon the application of such agent or attorney, to proceed to the registering of the said ship or vessel, the said agent or attorney, first complying, on behalf, and in the stead of, the owner or owners thereof, with the requisites prescribed by this act, in order to the registry of ships or vessels, except, that in the oath or affirmation, which shall be taken by the said agent or attorney, instead of swearing or affirming that he is owner, or an owner of such ship or vessel, he shall swear or affirm, that he is agent or attorney for the owner or owners thereof, and that he hath bona fide purchased the said ship or vessel, for the person or persons, whom he shall name and describe as the owner or owners thereof: *Provided nevertheless*, That whenever such ship or vessel shall arrive within the district comprehending the port to which such ship or vessel shall belong, the certificate of registry, which shall have been obtained, as aforesaid, shall be delivered up to the collector of such district, who, upon the requisites of this act, in order to the registry of ships or vessels, being complied with, shall grant a new one, in lieu of the first; and the certificate, so delivered up, shall forthwith be returned by the collector, who shall transmit the same to the collector who shall have granted it. And if the said first mentioned certificate of registry, shall not be delivered up, as above directed, the owner or owners, and the master of such ship or vessel, at the time of her said arrival within the district comprehending the port to which she may belong, shall, severally, forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars, to be recovered, with costs of suit, and the said certificate of registry shall be thenceforth void. And in case any of the matters of fact, in the said oath or affirmation alleged, which shall be within the knowledge of the party so swearing or affirming, shall not be true, there shall be a forfeiture of the ship or vessel, together with her tackle, furniture and apparel, in respect to which, the same shall have been made, or of the value thereof, to be recovered, with costs of suit, of the person by whom such oath or affirmation shall have been made: *Provided always*, That if the master, or person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, shall be within the district aforesaid, when application shall be made for registering the same, he

Vessels purchased by agents how registered.

shall, himself, make oath or affirmation, instead of the said agent or attorney, touching his being a citizen, and the means whereby, or manner in which, he is so a citizen; in which case, if what the said master, or person having the said charge or command, shall so swear or affirm, shall not be true, the forfeiture aforesaid shall not be incurred, but he shall, himself, forfeit and pay, by reason thereof, the sum of one thousand dollars.

Oath to be taken on losing certificate of registry.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That if the certificate of the registry of any ship or vessel shall be lost or destroyed, or mislaid, the master, or other person having the charge or command thereof, may make oath or affirmation, before the collector of the district where such ship or vessel shall first be, after such loss, destruction, or mislaying, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, which oath or affirmation shall be of the form following: "I (inserting here the name of the person swearing or affirming) being master (or having the charge or command) of the ship or vessel, called the (inserting the name of the vessel) do swear (or affirm) that the said ship, or vessel hath been, as I verily believe, registered, according to law, by the name of (inserting again the name of the vessel) and that a certificate thereof was granted by the collector of the district of (naming the district, where registered) which certificate has been lost (or destroyed, or unintentionally and by mere accident mislaid, as the case may be,) and (except, where the certificate is alleged to have been destroyed) that the same, if found again, and within my power, shall be delivered up to the collector of the district, in which it was granted;" which oath, or affirmation shall be subscribed by the party making the same, and upon such oath or affirmation being made, and the other requisites of this act, in order to the registry of ships, or vessels, being complied with, it shall be lawful for the collector of the district, before whom such oath or affirmation is made, to grant a new register, inserting therein, that the same is issued, in the room of the one lost or destroyed. But in all cases, where a register shall be granted, in lieu of the one lost or destroyed, by any other than the collector of the district, to which the ship, or vessel actually belongs, such register shall, within ten days after her first arrival within the district to which she belongs, be delivered up to the collector of the said district, who shall, thereupon, grant a new register, in lieu thereof. And in case the master, or commander shall neglect to deliver up such register within the time aforesaid, he shall forfeit one hundred dollars; and the former register shall become null and void.

Vessels sold &c. to be registered anew.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That when any ship or vessel, which shall have been registered, pursuant to this act, or the act hereby, in part, repealed, shall, in whole, or in part, be sold, or transferred to a citizen or citizens of the United States, or shall be altered in form or burthen, by being lengthened, or built upon, or from one denomination to another, by the mode or method of rigging or fitting, in every such case, the said ship or vessel shall be registered anew, by her former name, according to the directions herein before contained, (otherwise she shall cease to be deemed a ship or vessel of the United States) and her former certificate of registry shall be delivered up to the collector to whom application for such new registry shall be made, at the time, that the same shall be made to be by him transmitted to the register of the treasury who shall cause the same to be cancelled. And in every such case of sale or transfer, there shall be some instrument of writing, in the nature of a bill of sale, which shall recite, at length, the said certificate, otherwise the said ship or vessel shall be incapable of being so registered anew. And in every case, in which a ship or vessel is hereby required to be registered anew, if she shall not be so registered anew, she shall not be entitled to any of the privileges or benefits of a ship or vessel of the United States. And further, if her said former certificate of regis-

March 2, 1797,
ch. 7.

try shall not be delivered up, as aforesaid, except where the same may have been destroyed, lost, or unintentionally mislaid, and an oath or affirmation thereof shall have been made, as aforesaid, the owner or owners of such ship or vessel shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars, to be recovered, with costs of suit.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That when the master, or person having the charge or command of a ship or vessel, registered pursuant to this act, or the act hereby in part repealed, shall be changed, the owner, or one of the owners, or the new master of such ship or vessel, shall report such change to the collector of the district where the same shall happen, or where the said ship or vessel shall first be, after the same shall have happened, and shall produce to him the certificate of registry of such ship or vessel, and shall make oath or affirmation, showing that such new master is a citizen of the United States, and the manner in which, or means whereby, he is so a citizen; whereupon the said collector shall endorse upon the said certificate of registry, a memorandum of such change, specifying the name of such new master, and shall subscribe the said memorandum with his name, and if other than the collector of the district, by whom the said certificate of registry shall have been granted, shall transmit a copy of the said memorandum to him, with notice of the particular ship or vessel, to which it shall relate; and the collector of the district, by whom the said certificate shall have been granted, shall make a like memorandum of such change, in his book of registers, and shall transmit a copy thereof, to the register of the treasury. And if the said change shall not be reported, or if the said oath or affirmation shall not be taken, as above directed, the registry of such ship or vessel shall be void, and the said master, or person, having the charge or command of her shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars.

Owner or master to report such change to collector.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That if any ship or vessel, heretofore registered, or which shall hereafter be registered, as a ship or vessel of the United States, shall be sold or transferred, in whole or in part by way of trust, confidence or otherwise, to a subject or citizen of any foreign prince or state, and such sale or transfer shall not be made known, in manner herein before directed, such ship or vessel, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture shall be forfeited: *Provided*, That if such ship or vessel shall be owned in part only, and it shall be made appear to the jury, before whom the trial for such forfeiture shall be had, that any other owner of such ship or vessel, being a citizen of the United States, was wholly ignorant of the sale or transfer to, or ownership of, such foreign subject or citizen, the share or interest of such citizen of the United States shall not be subject to such forfeiture; and the residue only shall be so forfeited.

Vessels sold to foreigners forfeited on neglect to make such report.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That upon the entry of every ship or vessel of the United States, from any foreign port or place, if the same shall be at the port or place, at which the owner, or any of the part owners reside, such owner or part owner shall make oath or affirmation, that the register of such ship or vessel contains the name or names of all the persons, who are then owners of the said ship or vessel; or if any part of such ship or vessel has been sold or transferred, since the granting of such register, that such is the case, and that no foreign subject or citizen hath, to the best of his knowledge and belief, any share, by the way of trust, confidence, or otherwise, in such ship or vessel. And if the owner, or any part owner, shall not reside at the port or place, at which such ship or vessel shall enter, then the master or commander shall make oath or affirmation, to the like effect. And if the owner, or part owner, where there is one, or the master or commander, where there is no owner, shall refuse to swear or affirm as aforesaid, such ship or vessel shall not be entitled to the privileges of a ship or vessel of the United States.

Oath on entry of vessel of U. S. from foreign ports.

Collector,
how to proceed
on delivering up
the register.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That, in all cases, where the master, commander, or owner of a ship or vessel, shall deliver up the register of such ship or vessel, agreeable to the provisions of this act, if to the collector of the district, where the same shall have been granted, the said collector shall, thereupon, cancel the bond, which shall have been given at the time of granting such register; or, if to the collector of any other district, such collector shall grant to the said master, commander, or owner, a receipt or acknowledgment, that such register has been delivered to him, and the time, when; and upon such receipt being produced to the collector, by whom the register was granted, he shall cancel the bond of the party, as if the register had been returned to him.

Certificates of
registry to be
numbered.

SEC. 19. *And be it further enacted*, That the collector of each district shall progressively number the certificates of the registry by him granted, beginning anew, at the commencement of each year, and shall enter an exact copy of each certificate, in a book to be kept for that purpose; and shall, once in three months, transmit to the register of the treasury, copies of all the certificates, which shall have been granted by him, including the number of each.

Ships built in
U. S. after 15th
Aug. 1789, how
to obtain regis-
try.

SEC. 20. *And be it further enacted*, That every ship or vessel, built in the United States, after the fifteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, and belonging wholly, or in part, to the subjects of foreign powers, in order to be entitled to the benefits of a ship, built and recorded in the United States, shall be recorded in the office of the collector of the district, in which such ship or vessel was built, in manner following, that is to say: The builder of every such ship or vessel shall make oath or affirmation, before the collector of such district, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, in manner following: "I (inserting here the name of such builder) of (inserting here the place of his residence) shipwright, do swear (or affirm) that (describing here the kind of vessel, as, whether ship, brig, snow, schooner, sloop, or whatever else) named (inserting here the name of the ship or vessel) having (inserting here the number of decks) and being, in length (inserting here the number of feet) in breadth (inserting here the number of feet) in depth (inserting here the number of feet) and measuring (inserting here the number of tons) having (specifying, whether any or no) gallery, and (also specifying, whether any or no) head, was built by me, or under my direction, at (naming the place, county, and state) in the United States, in the year (inserting here the number of the year;)" which oath, or affirmation, shall be subscribed by the person making the same, and shall be recorded in a book, to be kept, by the said collector, for that purpose.

Collector to
have them sur-
veyed.

1790, ch. 35,
sec. 44.

SEC. 21. *And be it further enacted*, That the said collector shall cause the said ship or vessel to be surveyed or admeasured, according to the rule, prescribed by the forty-third section of the act, intituled "An act to provide more effectually for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares, and merchandise, imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels;" and the person, by whom such admeasurement shall be made, shall grant a certificate thereof, as in the case of a ship or vessel to be registered; which certificate shall be countersigned by the said builder, and by an owner, or the master, or person having the command or charge thereof, or by some other person, being an agent for the owner or owners thereof, in testimony of the truth of the particulars therein contained.

And grant
certificate of
the record.

SEC. 22. *And be it further enacted*, That a certificate of the said record, attested under the hand and seal of the said collector, shall be granted to the master of every such ship or vessel, as nearly as may be, of the form following: "In pursuance of an act, intituled 'An act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels,' I

(inserting here the name of the collector of the district) of (inserting here the name of the district) in the United States, do certify, that (inserting here the name of the builder) of (inserting here the place of his residence, county, and state) having sworn, or affirmed, that the (describing the ship or vessel, as in the certificate of record) named (inserting here her name) whereof (inserting here the name of the master) is, at present, master, was built at (inserting here the name of the place, county, and state, where built) by him, or under his direction, in the year (inserting here the number of the year) and (inserting here the name of the surveyor, or other person, by whom the same admeasurement shall have been made) having certified, that the said ship or vessel has (inserting here her number of decks) is, in length (inserting here the number of feet) in breadth (inserting here the number of feet) in depth (inserting here the number of feet) and measures (inserting here the number of tons): And the said builder and (naming and describing the owner, or master, or agent for the owner or owners, as the case may be, by whom the said certificate shall have been countersigned) having agreed to the said description and admeasurement, the said ship or vessel has been recorded, in the district of (inserting here the name of the district, where recorded) in the United States: Witness my hand and seal, this (inserting here the day of the month) day of (inserting here the name of the month) in the year (inserting here the number of the year)"; which certificate shall be recorded in the office of the said collector, and a duplicate thereof transmitted to the register of the treasury of the United States, to be recorded in his office.

Oath on entry of a vessel of the U. States from foreign parts.

SEC. 23. *And be it further enacted*, That if the master, or the name, of any ship or vessel so recorded, shall be changed, the owner, part owner, or consignee of such ship or vessel, shall cause a memorandum thereof to be endorsed on the certificate of the record, by the collector of the district, where such ship or vessel may be, or at which she shall first arrive, if such change took place in a foreign country; and a copy thereof shall be entered in the book of records, a transcript whereof shall be transmitted, by the said collector, to the collector of the district, where such certificate was granted (if not the same person), who shall enter the same in his book of records, and forward a duplicate of such entry, to the register of the treasury of the United States; and in such case, until the said owner, part owner, or consignee, shall cause the said memorandum to be made, by the collector, in manner aforesaid, such ship or vessel shall not be deemed, or considered, as a vessel recorded, in pursuance of this act.

Changes of master or name of the ship, to be endorsed on certificate of record.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That the master, or other person having the command or charge of any ship or vessel, recorded in pursuance of this act, shall, on entry of such ship or vessel, produce the certificate of such record, to the collector of the district, where she shall be so entered; in failure of which, the said ship or vessel shall not be entitled to the privileges of a vessel, recorded as aforesaid: *Provided always, and be it further enacted*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to make it necessary to record, a second time, any ship or vessel, which shall have been recorded, pursuant to the act, hereby in part repealed: but such recording shall be of the like force and effect, as if made, pursuant to this act.

Certificate to be produced on entry,

in failure to forfeit privileges of this act.

SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted*, That the fees and allowances, for the several services to be performed, pursuant to this act, and the distribution of the same, shall be as follows, to wit: For the admeasurement of every ship or vessel, of one hundred tons, and under, one cent per ton; for the admeasurement of every ship or vessel, above one hundred, and not exceeding two hundred tons, one hundred and fifty cents; for the admeasurement of every ship or vessel, above two hundred tons, two hundred cents; for every certificate of registry or record,

Fees,

how distributed,

How distributed.

two hundred cents; for every endorsement upon a certificate of registry or record, one hundred cents; and for taking every bond required by this act, twenty-five cents. The whole amount of which fees shall be received, and accounted for, by the collector, or, at his option, by the naval officer, where there is one; and where there is a collector, naval officer, and surveyor, shall be equally divided, monthly, between the said officers; and where there is no naval officer, two thirds to the collector, and the other third to the surveyor; and where there is only a collector, he shall receive the whole amount thereof; and where there is more than one surveyor in any district, each of them shall receive his proportionable part of such fees, as shall arise in the port, for which he is appointed: *Provided always*, that in all cases where the tonnage of any ship or vessel shall be ascertained, by any person appointed for that purpose, such person shall be paid a reasonable compensation therefor, out of the fees aforesaid, before any distribution thereof, as aforesaid. And every collector, and naval officer, and every surveyor, who shall reside at a port where there is no collector, shall cause to be affixed, and constantly kept, in some conspicuous part of his office, a fair table of the rates of fees, demandable by this act.

Penalty on making false registers, or demanding unlawful fees.

SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted*, That every collector, or officer, who shall knowingly make, or be concerned in making, any false register or record, or shall knowingly grant, or be concerned in granting, any false certificate of registry or record of, or for any ship or vessel, or other false document whatsoever, touching the same, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or who shall designedly take any other, or greater fees, than are by this act allowed, or who shall receive any voluntary reward or gratuity, for any of the services performed, pursuant thereto; and every surveyor, or other person appointed to measure any ship or vessel, who shall wilfully deliver to any collector, or naval officer, a false description of such ship or vessel, to be registered or recorded, shall, upon conviction of any such neglect, or offence, forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars, and be rendered incapable of serving in any office of trust or profit, under the United States; and if any person or persons, authorized and required by this act, in respect to his or their office or offices, to perform any act or thing, required to be done or performed, pursuant to any of the provisions of this act, shall wilfully neglect to do or perform the same, according to the true intent and meaning of this act, such person or persons shall, on being duly convicted thereof, if not subject to the penalty and disqualification aforesaid, forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars for the first offence, and a like sum for the second offence, and shall, thenceforth, be rendered incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under the United States.

On fraudulently using certificate of registry.

SEC. 27. *And be it further enacted*, That if any certificate of registry, or record, shall be fraudulently or knowingly used for any ship or vessel, not then actually entitled to the benefit thereof, according to the true intent of this act, such ship or vessel shall be forfeited to the United States, with her tackle, apparel, and furniture.

On making false oath.

SEC. 28. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall falsely make oath or affirmation, to any of the matters, herein required to be verified, such person or persons shall suffer the like pains and penalties, as shall be incurred by persons committing wilful and corrupt perjury; and that if any person or persons shall forge, counterfeit, erase, alter, or falsify any certificate, register, record, or other document, mentioned, described or authorized, in and by this act, such person, or persons, shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars.

1790, ch. 9,
sec. 18.

SEC. 29. *And be it further enacted*, That all the penalties and forfeitures, which may be incurred, for offences against this act, shall and

may be sued for, prosecuted and recovered, in such courts, and be disposed of in such manner, as any penalties and forfeitures which may be incurred for offences against the act, intituled "An act to provide more effectually for the collection of the duties imposed by law on goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, and on the tonnage of ships or vessels," may legally be sued for, prosecuted, recovered and disposed of: *Provided always*, That if any officer entitled to a part or share of any such penalty or forfeiture, shall be necessary as a witness, on the trial for such penalty or forfeiture, such officer may be a witness upon the said trial; but in such case, he shall not receive, nor be entitled to any part or share of the said penalty or forfeiture; and the part or share, to which he would otherwise have been entitled, shall accrue to the United States.

SEC. 30. *And be it further enacted*, That from and after the last day of March next, this act shall be in full force and effect; and so much of the act, intituled "An act for registering and clearing vessels, regulating the coasting trade, and for other purposes," as comes within the purview of this act, shall, after the said last day of March, be repealed.

APPROVED, December 31, 1792.

Penalties how recovered and disposed of.
1790, ch. 35.

When this act shall take effect, &c.
Repealed 1789, ch. 11.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. II.—*An Act to amend an act intituled "An act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," so far as respects the coinage of copper.*

Jan. 14, 1793.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every cent shall contain two hundred and eight grains of copper, and every half cent shall contain one hundred and four grains of copper; and that so much of the act, intituled "An act establishing a mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," as respects the weight of cents and half cents, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed.

APPROVED, January 14, 1793.

Act of April 2, 1792, ch. 16.
Contents of cents and half cents.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. III.—*An Act to provide for the allowance of interest on the sum ordered to be paid by the resolve of Congress, of the twenty-eighth of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, as an indemnity to the Persons therein named.*

Jan. 14, 1793.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That lawful interest, from the sixteenth day of May, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, shall be allowed on the sum of two hundred dollars, ordered to be paid to Return Jonathan Meigs, and the legal representative of Christopher Greene, deceased, by a Resolve of the United States in Congress assembled, of the twenty-eighth day of September, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five.

APPROVED, January 14, 1793.

STATUTE II.

CHAP. IV.—*An Act to continue in force for a limited time, and to amend the act intituled "An act providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations."*

Feb. 9, 1793.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the act, intituled "An act providing the means of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations," which would expire at the end of the present session of Congress, be, and the same hereby is, together

Act providing intercourse with foreign nations continued.
July 1, 1790, ch. 22.
1796, ch. 41.