

ACTS.

At a Session of Assembly begun and held in the City of Annapolis in the County of Ann Arundel the 28th day of October and ended the 15th day of November, in the 11th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc., Annoq. Domini 1712, were enacted the following Laws.

Edward Lloyd, Esq., President.

An Act restraining Victuallers and Keepers of Public Houses Bacon
from entertaining Sailors to the Prejudice of Trade and
Commerce

Whereas the Masters and Commanders of the several Merchant Ships trading into this Province, and the several Merchants and Traders therein, have represented to this General Assembly, that several Persons keeping Victualling Houses, or Public Houses of Entertainment, for Lucre and Gain, do make it their Practice to draw in and entertain the Seamen belonging to the several Ships, and give them too great Credit; not only to the Ruin of them, their Wives and Children, but also to the Hinderance of the Ship's Lading, whereby the Charges of the Ships are greatly augmented, and Trade in general delayed and discouraged: For the Prevention whereof;

II. Be it Enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesty's President, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That if any Victualler, or Keeper of any Public House, within this Province, shall, after the First Day of January next, trust any Seafaring Man, Sailor, or Seaman, (not being an Inhabitant of this Province, and generally residing in the same) for any Sum or Sums of Money above the Value of Five Shillings in any Voyage, without Leave or Licence from the Commander of the Ship or Vessel to which he belongs, upon Pain of losing their Debt: And if such Victualler, or other Person keeping a Publick House, shall take any Bond, Bill, Note, or Bill of Exchange, or any other Specialty or Obligation for any Debt contracted by any Sailor or Seaman belonging to any Ship or Vessel, and not being an Inhabitant as aforesaid, such Bond, Bill, Note, or Bill of Exchange, or other Specialty, or Obligation, shall be void, and of no Effect.