

## CHAP 131.

Penalty for counterfeiting stamps, &c

5. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any person whatsoever from and after the first day of August next, shall cast, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be cast, forged or counterfeited, the stamp or mark directed to be used in pursuance of this act for the stamping of silver plate in the city of Baltimore, or shall mark or stamp, or cause or procure to be marked or stamped, any wrought plate of silver, or any wares of brass, or other base metal, silvered over, or resembling silver, with any mark or stamp which hath been or shall be forged or counterfeited at any time, either before, on or after the said first day of August next, in imitation of, or to resemble any stamp or mark directed to be used in pursuance of this act, or shall transpose or remove, or cause or procure to be transposed or removed, from one piece of wrought plate to another, or to any vessel of such base metal as aforesaid, any stamp, mark or impression, which may be made by or with any stamp or mark, directed to be used in pursuance of this act, or shall sell, exchange, or expose or offer for sale or exchange, any wrought plate of silver, or any vessel of such base metal as aforesaid, with any such forged or counterfeited stamp, mark or impression thereon, or any stamp, mark or impression, which hath been or shall be transposed or removed from any other piece of plate, knowing such stamp, mark or impression, to be forged, counterfeited, or transposed or removed as aforesaid, or shall wilfully or knowingly have, or be possessed of, any mark or stamp which hath been or shall be forged or counterfeited in imitation of, and to resemble any mark or stamp to be used as aforesaid, every such person offending, in any such or either of the cases aforesaid, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars, to be disposed of as hereinafter is directed, and shall be committed by the court in which judgment shall be given thereon to the penitentiary of the state of Maryland, there to remain and be kept at hard labour for any time not exceeding the space of five years, nor less than one year, and until payment be made of the said forfeiture.

Stamp duty

6. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the assay officer aforesaid shall, previous to the touching, assaying or marking, such silver plate or manufactured silver, ask, demand and receive, for his own use, of and from the person or persons whose property is required to be touched, assayed and marked, six cents for every ounce of silver plate or manufactured silver, and so in proportion for any greater or lesser quantity which shall be brought to be touched, assayed or marked as aforesaid, and shall give a receipt for the same to the person or persons bringing such plate or manufacture.

Persons refusing or neglecting to pay duty

7. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any person or persons shall refuse or neglect to pay such respective prices, sums or rewards, as may by this act be demanded, and are hereby respectively required to be paid on account of or for the purposes herein mentioned, or if the silver plate, or manufactures of silver, brought to be touched, assayed or marked, shall not be respectively stamped with the initials of the name of the worker or maker thereof, that then, or in either case, it shall be lawful for the assay officer to refuse to assay, try or mark, all or any of the plate of such person or persons neglecting to pay or mark as aforesaid, until such prices, sums of money, or rewards as aforesaid, shall be actually paid, or