

shall make a fair and alphabetical list of the names of all such persons as aforesaid, and transmit the same to the governor and council. C H A P. XX.

XXII. **And**, whereas many of the male subjects of this state, above the age of eighteen years; are out of this state on some lawful purposes in some of the neighbouring states, or in parts beyond the seas, **Be it enacted**, That no such person shall be affected by any matter or thing contained in this act, unless such person, for three months after his return, shall wilfully neglect to take the said oath, or affirmation, (as the case may be) before the governor and council, or some magistrate of the county or city where he resides. Persons absent on lawful business not affected by this act. &c.

XXIII. **And**, in order to discover whether the persons aforesaid, absent from this state on or before the first day of March next, and returning after that day, have taken the oath or affirmation aforesaid, within the time limited as aforesaid; **Be it enacted**, That the justices of the several county courts shall annually, at their respective August courts, make diligent inquiry after all such persons returning as aforesaid; and omitting to take the oath or affirmation aforesaid within the time limited as aforesaid, and shall enter their names on the minutes of the proceedings of their court, and fair and alphabetical lists make thereof; and transmit them to the governor and council. Justices to make inquiry after persons returning, &c.

XXIV. **And**, whereas all persons in the regular service of this state, or of the United States, or of any of them, have already given, by such service, sufficient proof of their attachment to the freedom and independence thereof, **Be it enacted**; That no general, field, commissioned, warrant, or staff officer, or other officer; nor any soldier or person in the regular service of this state, or the United States, or any of them, shall be affected by any matter or thing herein contained. Officers, &c. not affected by this act.

XXV. **And**, to prevent this state from becoming an asylum for the distressed fugitives from other states, **Be it enacted**, That the governor and council, or any magistrate of the county, on their or his own knowledge, or on information, that any male person above the age of eighteen years, belonging to any of the United States, has taken shelter in this state, shall immediately cause such person to be apprehended and examined, and if such person cannot, upon such examination, produce a certificate of his having taken the oath or affirmation prescribed by his state, or if such person has not taken the oath, or affirmation, (as the case may be) which has been prescribed by this state, and refuses to take the said oath or affirmation, and shall also refuse to take the following oath, or affirmation if a quaker, menonist or dunker, viz. "I, A. B. do swear, or solemnly affirm, (if a quaker, menonist or dunker,) that I do not hold myself bound to yield any allegiance or obedience to the king of Great-Britain, his heirs or successors, and that I will be true and faithful to the United States of America, and will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend, the freedom and independence thereof," the governor and council, or the said magistrate, may commit such person to the public gaol, or the governor and council may remand such person back to his own state, and in such manner as they may adjudge the most expedient; and if such person hath property in this state, he shall be subject to the treble tax aforesaid, in manner and form prescribed as aforesaid; and such person shall also be subject to all the disabilities imposed by this act; and upon every commitment of such person by any magistrate as aforesaid; the said magistrate shall immediately give notice thereof to the said governor and council. Persons taking shelter in this state to be apprehended, &c.

XXVI. IT being represented to this general assembly, that many persons who gave bonds to the presidents of the late conventions, councils of safety, and to the committees of observation, for their good behaviour and fidelity to this state, have been guilty of breaches, **Be it enacted**, That all bonds, taken in the name of any president of convention, council of safety, or in the name or names of any other person or persons, for the use of this state, be transmitted as soon as possible to the clerk of the county where the principal and the security reside, or if the principal has departed this state, to the clerk of the county where the security may reside, and thereupon *scire facias* shall immediately issue in the name of this state against Bonds to be transmitted to the clerk, &c.