

PRIVATE ACTS OF THE EIGHTH CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

Passed at the first session, which was begun and held at the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday, the seventeenth day of October, 1803, and ended on the twenty-seventh day of March, 1804.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, President; AARON BURR, Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate; JOHN BROWN, President of the Senate pro tempore from the 31st day of October to the 19th day of December, and from the 26th day of January to the 25th day of February, 1804; JESSE FRANKLIN, President of the Senate pro tempore, from the 14th day of March; NATHANIEL MACON, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

STATUTE I.

CHAP. VII.—*An Act for the relief of John Coles.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the proper accounting officers liquidate and adjust the claim of John Coles, owner of the ship Grand Turk, heretofore employed in the service of the United States, for the detention of the said ship at Gibraltar, by direction of the American consul at that port, from the tenth day of May to the fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and one, inclusive; and that he be allowed demurrage at the rate stipulated in the charter party, together with the interest thereon.

APPROVED, January 14, 1804.

Jan. 14, 1804.

Demurrage allowed on ship Grand Turk.

CHAP. VIII.—*An Act for the relief of Paul Coulon.*

Be it enacted, &c., That there be paid to Paul Coulon, as agent for the captors of the ship Betty Cathcart and brig Aaron, prizes to the French privateer La Belloné, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of six thousand two hundred and forty-one dollars and forty-four cents, being the amount retained by the Treasury Department from the sales of the ship Betty Cathcart, for duties on the cargo of the brig Aaron.

APPROVED, January 26, 1804.

STATUTE I.

Jan. 26, 1804.

Duties on sales of prizes refunded.

CHAP. X.—*An Act to incorporate the Directors of the Columbian Library Company.*

Be it enacted, &c., That Stephen B. Balch, Joseph Nourse, Charles D. Green, John Craven, Francis Lowndes, junior, and George French, and their successors, duly elected or appointed in manner hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby made, declared and constituted a corporation and body politic in law and in fact, to have continuance

STATUTE I.

Jan. 31, 1804.

Library company constituted.

forever, by the name, style and title of "The Directors of the Columbian Library Company in Georgetown."

Property vested in as a corporation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all and singular, the goods and chattels heretofore given, granted or devised, to the said Library Company, or to any person or persons, for the use thereof, or that may have been purchased for, or on account of the same, be, and the said goods and chattels are hereby vested in, and confirmed to the said corporation: *And further*, That the said corporation may take, and receive any sum, or sums of money, or any goods or chattels, or other effects of what kind or nature soever, which shall, or may hereafter, be given, granted, or bequeathed unto them, by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable of making such gift or bequest, such money, goods, chattels or other effects to be laid out and disposed of, in the purchase of books, maps, charts, drawings, specimens of minerals, fossils, and other natural and artificial productions, calculated to furnish a library and museum, for the use and benefit of the said company, agreeably to the intention of the donors.

Rights and privileges.

Use of funds.

May sue and be sued.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation, by the name, style, and title aforesaid, be, and shall be hereafter forever, able and capable in law, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in any court or courts, or other places, and before any judge or judges, justice or justices, or other persons whatsoever within the district of Columbia or elsewhere, in all, and all manner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands, of whatsoever kind or nature they may be, in as full and effectual a manner, as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may or can do.

May have a seal and officers.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have, and use, a common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall think proper, and the same to break, alter, and renew at their pleasure, to appoint a treasurer, secretary, and librarian, to assign them their duties, fix their compensation, and remove him or them from office, and appoint another or others in their place, as often as they shall think fit; to make, ordain, establish, and execute such bye-laws and ordinances as may be deemed useful to the institution, and the same to alter, amend, or abrogate at pleasure; to fix the price of new shares and annual contributions on each share; to direct how transfers may be made and certified, and judge of the persons proper to be admitted members; to procure by purchase, rent, or otherwise, a suitable place for keeping the library and museum; to appoint the times for keeping the library open, and for taking out and returning books; to fill up vacancies that may happen in their number between two annual meetings; to levy and collect fines and forfeitures; and to determine upon, do, and transact all business and matters appertaining to the said corporation and library company, agreeably to the rules, ordinances, and bye-laws thereof, during their continuance in office: *Provided*, That not less than three of the said directors form a quorum to do business; that no bye-law, rule or ordinance, shall be made repugnant to the laws of this district; and that no contribution be laid on any share, in any one year, greater than one-fifth of the value of a share, without the consent of a majority of the members.

May make by-laws.

May collect fines.

What number a quorum.

Annual meeting to be held.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be an annual meeting of the members of the said library company at the library, or such suitable place as the directors may from time to time appoint, of which the directors shall cause public notice to be given in one or more of the newspapers that circulate in the vicinity; at which time and place, the members, or such of them as may be present, either personally or by proxy, and shall not be in arrears for any annual contribution, fines, or forfeitures, shall elect and choose by ballot, six directors out

of their own number, to serve for the year ensuing their election, and until others shall be elected and consent to serve in their place.

May choose directors.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors shall cause the treasurer, secretary, and librarian, to keep, in suitable books for that purpose, just and proper entries of all the proceedings and accounts of the company and corporation, and have them laid before the company at every annual meeting, previous to taking the votes for directors; and shall always deliver the said books, together with all the property of the company, in good order to their successors in office, whenever required.

Accounts how kept.

APPROVED, January 31, 1804.

CHAP. XVI.—*An Act for the relief of Samuel Corp.*

STATUTE I.

Feb. 25, 1804.

Be it enacted, &c., That the collector of the customs for the port of New York be, and hereby is directed to allow to Samuel Corp, of New York, merchant, the drawback of duties by him paid on merchandise, which arrived at New York, in the ship Chesapeake, Andrew Tombs, master, and without being there landed, were thence exported in the same ship, for New Orleans, in the month of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, according to the tenor of two certificates issued by the collector for said port, and made payable respectively, on the twenty-third day of June, and on the twenty-third day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred: *Provided*, That due proof of the landing of said merchandise at New Orleans, shall have been exhibited at the office of said collector, as is by law required in other cases of exportation: *And provided also*, That it shall appear to the satisfaction of the collector that the master, or other person having the charge or command of the said ship, had, at the time of making report of the arrival of the same at the port of New York, reported the merchandise brought in her, and which was afterwards exported, as above mentioned, to New Orleans, to be destined for the said port of New Orleans, in conformity with the provisions, which were by law in force, previous to the thirtieth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine.

Samuel Corp allowed drawback on certain goods exported from New York to New Orleans.

Proviso.

APPROVED, February 25, 1804.

CHAP. XXVIII.—*An Act for the relief of the sufferers by fire, in the town of Norfolk.*

STATUTE I.

March 19, 1804.

Be it enacted, &c., That all persons who, being indebted to the United States for duties on merchandise, having given bond therefor with one or more sureties payable to the collector for the district of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and who have suffered a loss of property by the late conflagration at the town of Norfolk, shall be, and they hereby are allowed to take up, or have cancelled, all bonds heretofore given for duties as aforesaid, upon giving to the collector new bonds, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the said collector, for the sums of their former bonds respectively, payable in twelve months from and after the day of payment specified in the bonds to be taken up or cancelled as aforesaid; and the said collector is hereby authorized and directed to give up or cancel all such bonds, upon the receipt of others, as described in this act; which last mentioned bonds shall be proceeded with in all respects like other bonds which are taken by collectors for duties due to the United States: *Provided, however*, That nothing in this act contained shall extend to bonds which had fallen due before the nineteenth day of February last.

Bonds given for duties by sufferers by the fire, may be cancelled on new ones being given, &c.

APPROVED, March 19, 1804.

STATUTE I.

March 19, 1804.

CHAP. XXX.—*An Act for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed ships Meshouda and Mirboha.*

Appropriations for prize money due the captors of the Meshouda, &c.

Be it enacted, &c., That the sum of eight thousand five hundred and ninety-four dollars and fifty cents, being one moiety of the value of the armed ship Meshouda, captured by the frigate John Adams, commanded by Captain John Rodgers, and restored to the Emperor of Morocco, be, and the same is hereby appropriated for defraying the expense of prize money due to the captors; and that the further sum of seven hundred and thirty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents be, and the same hereby is appropriated for defraying the expenses incurred for the said ship, whilst in possession of the captors.

For the captors of the Mirboha.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the further sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same hereby is appropriated, for defraying the expense of prize money due to the officers and crew of the frigate Philadelphia, commanded by Captain William Bainbridge, being one moiety of the value of the armed ship Mirboha, captured by the aforesaid frigate Philadelphia, and likewise restored to the Emperor of Morocco.

Foregoing sums to be divided amongst the captors, how.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the aforesaid several sums shall be divided amongst the captors respectively, in the proportion already established by law; for the distribution of prize money, and shall be paid out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

APPROVED, March 19, 1804.

STATUTE I.

March 26, 1804.

CHAP. XXXVII.—*An Act authorizing the payment of two thousand eight hundred dollars to Philip Sloan.*

Allowance to Philip Sloan.

Be it enacted, &c., That there be paid to Philip Sloan, out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury of the United States, the sum of two thousand and eight hundred dollars, to indemnify him for his ransom from captivity among the Algerines, and as a full compensation for his services as interpreter to the Algerine mission.

APPROVED, March 26, 1804.

STATUTE I.

March 26, 1804.

CHAP. XLI.—*An Act for the relief of the heirs of John Habersham.*

The officers of the Treasury to allow certain charges in his favor.

Be it enacted, &c., That the proper accounting officers of the Treasury, in settling the accounts of John Habersham, late collector of the port of Savannah, be authorized to allow a charge of one thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and sixteen cents, being the balance of the additional duty of ten per cent. on goods, wares, and merchandise imported in foreign ships; but which, in the commencement of the execution of the law of one thousand seven hundred and ninety, for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, was not duly collected by him, owing to the distance, which deprived him of early instructions from the Treasury Department; and also the further sum of one thousand dollars, being the amount of a draft of Edward Price, factor of the United States for establishing trade with the Creek Indians, for supplies advanced to the said factor, which has not heretofore been credited on his account.

APPROVED, March 26, 1804.

STATUTE I.

March 26, 1804.

CHAP. XLII.—*An Act for the relief of the legal representatives of David Valenzin, deceased; and for other purposes.*

Be it enacted, &c., That for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of the Navy to restore to the legal representatives of David Valenzin,

deceased, the value of the property captured from him in the Mediterranean by the American squadron, in the year one thousand eight hundred and three, a sum not exceeding two thousand six hundred and sixty-five dollars, and seventy cents, be, and the same hereby is appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, That the value of the said property shall be first duly ascertained by the proper accounting officers: *And provided also*, That the person or persons applying therefor, shall exhibit due proof of his or their being the true legal representative or representatives of the said David Valenzin.

A sum of money appropriated for the representatives of Valenzin.

Proviso.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he hereby is authorized and directed to cause to be liquidated and paid the claims of those individuals who contributed to the maintenance and support of the said David Valenzin, during his imprisonment, and who have defrayed the expenses of his interment; and that for this purpose, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars be, and the same hereby is appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Claims of certain individuals to be paid.

APPROVED, March 26, 1804.

CHAP. XLV.—*An Act for the relief of Moses Young.*

STATUTE I.

March 26, 1804.

Be it enacted, &c., That the accounting officers of the Treasury be authorized and directed to liquidate the accounts of Moses Young, for services rendered the United States, as agent of claims at Madrid, from the date of his appointment by Mr. Humphreys, then minister of the United States at the court of Spain, until the time he ceased to act as the private secretary of that minister, at and after the rate of two thousand dollars per annum; *Provided*, That he produce to the accounting officers of the Treasury, a certificate from Mr. Humphreys, that he received no pay or emolument from individuals for said services.

To be paid for services as agent of claims at Madrid.

APPROVED, March 26, 1804.