

Admiralty-Office, May 17, 1796.

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Peyton, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in the Downs, to Mr. Nepean, Secretary to the Admiralty, dated May 15, 1796.*

S I R,

YOU will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships that the Flora Armed Cutter, Lieutenant Reddy, is just returned here from looking into Dunkirk, and has brought in with him L'Epervier French Lugger, mounting 2 Two-Pounders and 6 Swivels, with 26 Men, which he captured close in with Dunkirk. She sailed from Havre de Grace on the 10th Instant, and had not taken any Thing.

Whitehall, May 17.

*As several Artificers and Manufacturers, Subjects of Great Britain, have, from Time to Time, gone into Foreign Countries to exercise their several Callings, contrary to the Laws of these Kingdoms, the following Abstracts of Acts of Parliament of Their late Majesties King George the First and Second and of His present Majesty, for preventing such Practices, are published, for the Information of all Persons who may be ignorant of the Penalties they may incur by Disobedience to them: And it will be observed, that such Penalties likewise extend to those who are any ways concerned or instrumental in the Sending or Enticing Artificers or Manufacturers out of these Kingdoms, or in the Exportation of the Tools and Instruments used by them, as well as to the Artificers or Manufacturers themselves.*

*Statute 5. George I. Chap. 27.*

IF any Person shall contract with, entice, or solicit, any Artificer in Wool, Iron, Steel, Brass, or other Metal, Clock-maker, Watch-maker, or any other Artificer of Great Britain, to go into Foreign Countries out of the King's Dominions, and shall be convicted thereof, upon Indictment or Information in any of the Courts at Westminster, or at the Assizes or Quarter-Sessions, he shall be fined any Sum not exceeding ONE HUNDRED POUNDS for the first Offence, and shall be imprisoned Three Months, and till the Fine be paid. And if any Person having been once convicted shall offend again he shall be fined at the Discretion of the Court, and imprisoned Twelve Months, and till the Fine be paid.

If any of the King's Subjects, being such Artificers, shall go into any Country out of His Majesty's Dominions, to exercise or teach the said Trades to Foreigners; and if any of the King's Subjects in any such Foreign Country, exercising any of the said Trades, shall not return into this Realm within Six Months after Warning given by the Ambassador, Minister or Consul of Great Britain, in the Country where such Artificers shall be, or by any Person authorised by such Ambassador, &c. or by one of the Secretaries of State, and from henceforth inhabit within this Realm; such Persons shall be incapable of taking any Legacy, or of being an Executor or Administrator, or of taking any

Lands, &c. within this Kingdom, by Descent, Devise or Purchase, and shall forfeit all Lands, Goods, &c. within this Kingdom, to His Majesty's Use, and shall be deemed Alien, and out of His Majesty's Protection.

Upon Complaint made, upon Oath, before any Justice of Peace, that any Person is endeavouring to seduce any such Artificer, or that any such Artificer hath contracted or is preparing to go out of His Majesty's Dominions, for the Purposes aforesaid, such Justice may send his Warrant to bring the Person complained of before him, or before some other Justice; and if it shall appear by the Oath of one Witness, or by Confession, that he was guilty of any of the said Offences, such Justice may bind him to appear at the next Assizes or Quarter Sessions: And, if such Person shall refuse to give Security, the Justice may commit him to Goal till the next Assizes or Quarter Sessions, and until he shall be delivered by due Course of Law. And if any such Artificer shall be convicted, upon Indictment, of any such Promise, Contract, or Preparation to go beyond the Seas, for the Purpose aforesaid, he shall give such Security to the King not to depart out of His Majesty's Dominions, as such Court shall think reasonable, and shall be imprisoned till Security given.

If any of the above Offences shall be committed in Scotland, the same shall be prosecuted in the Court of Justiciary, or the Circuits there.

*Statute 23 George II. Chap. 13.*

IF any Person shall contract with, or endeavour to seduce any Artificer in Wool, Mohair, Cotton or Silk, or in Iron, Steel, Brass, or other Metal, or any Clock-maker, Watch-maker, or any other Artificer in any other of the Manufactures of Great Britain or Ireland, to go out of this Kingdom or Ireland, into any Foreign Country not within the Dominions of the Crown of Great Britain, and shall be convicted, upon Indictment or Information, in the King's Bench at Westminster, or by Indictment at the Assizes or General Gaol Delivery for the County, &c. wherein such Offence shall be committed in England, or by Indictment in the Court of Justiciary or any of the Circuit Courts in Scotland, or by Indictment or Information in the King's Bench at Dublin, if such Offence be committed in Ireland; the Person so convicted shall, for every Artificer contracted with, or seduced, forfeit FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, and shall suffer Imprisonment in the Common Goal of the County or Stewartry wherein such Offender shall be convicted, for Twelve Calendar Months, and until Forfeiture be paid: And in Case of a subsequent Offence of the same Kind, the Persons so again offending shall forfeit, for every Person contracted with or seduced, ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, and shall suffer Imprisonment in the Common Gaol of the County or Stewartry wherein such Offender shall be convicted, for Two Years, and until such Forfeiture be paid.

If any Person in Great Britain or Ireland shall put on Board any Ship or Boat, not bound directly to some Port in Great Britain or Ireland, or to some other of the Dominions of the Crown of Great Britain, any such Tools or Utensils as are commonly used in, or proper for the Preparing, Working up