

In pursuance of your Order I sailed on the 19th Instant, and took my Station off the Vlie Passage on the 21st at Half past Six A. M. At the Entrance of that Passage I discovered a French Cutter Privateer in Shore of me, which I chased and came up with, and who, after exchanging a few Shot, ran on Shore. I am sorry to add I was not able to get Men enough to him, as totally to destroy him: a Neutral Vessel that came out of the Vlie Passage the 23d Instant, informed me she mounted Ten Guns, and had Thirty-six Men on board; and that he had, after getting off, proceeded to the Texel Road by the Inner Navigation.

On the 25th at Two P. M. I chased and came up with a French Cutter Privateer, who, after engaging me a little while, ran on Shore on the Vlie Island, where he defended himself pretty well for an Hour, when I perceived his Men were escaping to the Shore under the Cover and Protection of Troops to the Amount of about an Hundred. I immediately hoisted out my small Boat, and directed my larger one to follow, and, under the Fire of the Musketry from the Troops on Shore, boarded her, but not until the Crew had escaped: in our Endeavours to get the Cutter off we were considerably annoyed by the Fire from the Troops; but having detached the large Boat further in Shore, I succeeded in dislodging them from the Sand Bank, behind which they had taken Shelter, and I was fortunate enough to get the Privateer off. She is called the Impregnable, mounts Fourteen Guns, Twelve of which are Three-Pounders, and Two are Nine-Pounders. She had on board during the Engagement about Sixty Men, as appears by her Log; and it also appears she had been particularly successful during her former Cruizes. The Lark has suffered in her Hull and Rigging, but fortunately had no Man killed or wounded:—the Enemy we have Reason to suppose, from the State of the Vessel, suffered considerably; and several Men were killed on the Beach. I cannot speak too highly of Mr. Thomas Gettins the Master, as also the good Conduct and Bravery of the Crew of the Lark.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

J. H. WILSON.

Whitehall, April 29, 1800.

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, Brads, 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 authorized 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 Gaol 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, Brads, 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 Kings Bench at