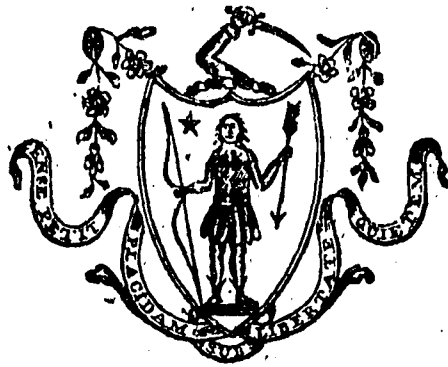




Acts and Laws,

Passed by the GENERAL COURT
of *Massachusetts* ;

Begun and held at *Boston*, in the County of *Suffolk*,
on Wednesday the thirty-first Day of *May*, *Anno*
Domini, 1786 , and from thence continued, by
Prorogation and Adjournment, to Wednesday the
thirty first Day of *January*, 1787.

C H A P. I.

An Act providing for the Pay and Subsistence of
the Militia that have been, now are, and may be
employed by Government in suppressing the dan-
gerous Rebellion that has taken Place within this
Commonwealth.

WHEREAS a dangerous and an unprovoked rebellion has taken
place within this Commonwealth by a number of wicked and design-
ing persons against the constitution and government of the same : And
whereas for the suppression thereof, government has been under the neces-
sity of sending forth a large body of Militia, and further reinforcements
may

Preamble.

C H A P. VI.

An Act, describing the Disqualifications to which Persons shall be subjected, who have been, or may be guilty of Treason, or giving Aid or Support to the present Rebellion, and to whom a Pardon may be extended.

Preamble.

*W*HEREAS the General Court, at their present sessions, have resolved, That the Governour be authorized and empowered, in the name of the General Court, to promise a pardon, under such disqualifications as should thereafter be provided, to such private soldiers and others, who might have acted in the capacity of non-commissioned officers, as had been, or were in arms against the Commonwealth, with such exceptions as he, or the general officer, commanding the troops, might judge necessary : Provided, they should deliver up their arms, and take and subscribe the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth, within such time as might be limited by his Excellency, for that purpose :

And whereas it is fit and expedient, That the conditions and disqualifications upon which the pardon and indemnity to the offenders aforesaid, should be offered and given, should, as soon as possible, be established and made known :

No pardon shall be promised to any person or persons, unless they deliver up their arms and subscribe the oath of allegiance within the time limited.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no pardon or indemnity, shall be promised as aforesaid by the Governour, by virtue of any act or resolve of the General Court, that has been or shall be passed, to any person or persons, who have acted in the capacity of non-commissioned officers or privates, or persons of any other description, who, since the first day of August, seventeen hundred and eighty-six, have been, now are, or hereafter may be in arms against the authority and Government of this Commonwealth, or who have given or may hereafter give them counsel, aid, comfort or support, voluntarily, with intent to encourage the opposition to Government, unless they shall on or before such time as the Governour shall limit for that purpose, deliver up their arms to, and take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, before some Justice of the Peace, within some county of this Commonwealth ; and no pardon or indemnity shall be offered or given by the Governour to any of the offenders aforesaid, who are not citizens of this State.

Conditions and disqualifications

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That to whomsoever of the offenders aforesaid, the Governour shall think fit, by virtue of any act or resolve of the General Court, to promise a pardon and indemnity, for the offences aforesaid, it shall be under the following restrictions, conditions and disqualifications, that is to say, That they shall keep the peace for the term of three years,

years, from the time of passing this act, and that during that term of time, they shall not serve as Jurors, be eligible to any town-office, or any other office under the Government of this Commonwealth, and shall be disqualified from holding or exercising the employments of school-masters, innkeepers or retailers of spirituous liquors, or either of them, or giving their votes for the same term of time, for any officer, civil or military, within this Commonwealth, unless such persons, or any of them, shall after the first day of *May*, seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, exhibit plenary evidence of their having returned to their allegiance, and kept the peace, and that they possess an unequivocal attachment to the Government, as shall appear to the General Court a sufficient ground to discharge them, or any of them, from all or any part of the disqualifications aforesaid.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the Justice before whom any offender or offenders aforesaid may deliver up their arms, and take and subscribe the oath aforesaid, and he is accordingly directed, immediately on the expiration of the term to be limited by the Governour as aforesaid, to certify to the clerks of the several towns, districts, and plantations, whereunto the offenders may belong, the names of all such who shall deliver up their arms and take and subscribe the oath aforesaid, and shall also, as soon as may be after the expiration of the said term, make a return to the Secretary of this Commonwealth, of the number of arms in his possession, and to whom they belong, and shall at the same time lodge with the Secretary, their original subscription to the oath of allegiance; and it shall be the duty of the Justice to require such as shall take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, to subjoin to their names, their places of abode, and their additions, and if required, to give to each offender who shall deliver up his arms, and take and subscribe the oath aforesaid, a certificate of the same under his seal; and he shall be intitled to ask and receive *nine pence*, of the offenders, for each certificate. And any Justice of the Peace to whom any arms may voluntarily be delivered as aforesaid, shall certify to the Major-General or commanding-officer, of the division, in which the said Justice may live, the number of arms so delivered to him, and by whom they were delivered; and it shall be the duty of such Major-General or commanding-officer, to give such directions as he may think necessary, for the safe keeping such arms, in order that they may be returned to the person or persons who delivered the same, at the expiration of the said term of three years, in case such person or persons shall have complied with the conditions above-mentioned, and shall obtain an order for the re-delivery of such arms, from the Governour, who is hereby authorized and empowered to make such order, unless it appears to him, that the conditions aforesaid have not been complied with.

Duty of the Justices before whom offenders may deliver up their arms, &c.

Bz