

THE
L A W S
OF THE
STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE,

PASSED AT A SESSION OF THE
HONORABLE GENERAL-COURT,
BEGUN AND HOLDEN AT EXETER,
DECEMBER 1793.

PRINTED FROM ATTESTED COPIES.

PORTSMOUTH—NEW-HAMPSHIRE:
PRINTED BY JOHN MELCHER, PRINTER TO THE STATE,

1794.

quorum unus, be empowered to administer the oaths aforesaid to all general and civil officers ; and that any two justices of any court in this State be empowered to administer the oaths aforesaid to their respective clerk or clerks, and that they respectively make return of the same into the office of the secretary of this State, within six months next after administering the same.

This Act was approved February 12, 1794,

Approved
Feb 18, 1794

AN ACT to prevent the keeping of large quantities of gun-powder in private houses in Portsmouth, and for appointing a keeper of the magazine belonging to said town.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the keeping of large quantities of gun-powder in private houses in Portsmouth aforesaid, or in merchant ships, or vessels lying at the wharves in said town, would greatly endanger the lives and properties of the inhabitants thereof in case of fire ; which danger might be prevented, by obliging the owners of such powder, to deposit the same in the magazine provided by said town for that purpose :

Therefore,

Gun powder
not to be
kept in
dwelling-
houses, &c.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General-Court convened, That if any person or persons, shall keep in any dwelling-house, store or other building on land, within the limits of said Portsmouth, except the magazine aforesaid, more than ten pounds of gun-powder at any one time, which ten pounds shall be kept in a tin-cannister, properly secured for that purpose, such person or persons shall forfeit the powder so kept, to the firewards of said Portsmouth, to be laid out by them in purchasing such utensils as they may judge proper for the extinguishing of fire ; and the said firewards are hereby directed and empowered to seize, and cause the same to be condemned in any court of record proper to hear and try
the

the same, to be disposed of for the purchase aforesaid. And the offender shall also forfeit and pay a fine for the use of the poor of said Portsmouth, equal to the value of the powder so kept in any store, dwelling-house, or building ; -which fine, shall be sued for and recovered by the overseers of the poor of said Portsmouth, for the use of said poor, in any court of law proper to try the same. Fine.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every master of any merchant ship or vessel, bringing gun-powder into said Portsmouth, shall, within the space of forty-eight hours after his arrival, deposit in said magazine, all the gun-powder by him so brought as aforesaid ; and if he shall neglect so to do, he shall pay a fine of thirty pounds, for the use of the poor of said Portsmouth, to be recovered by said overseers, in manner aforesaid. Deposited in magazine.

And be it further enacted, That there shall be chosen annually, or oftener if necessity require, by the inhabitants of said Portsmouth, being legal voters, a keeper of said magazine, whose duty it shall be, to receive into and deliver out of said magazine, all the powder so deposited, and to account therefor, who shall have a right to demand and receive for his time and trouble in attending on said business, at the rate of one shilling per hundred weight, for all quantities of powder above ten pounds, that he shall so receive into, and deliver out of said magazine ; and for all quantities under ten pounds, at the rate of a half penny per pound. Keeper of magazine to be chosen.

And be it further enacted, That no person shall transport or carry through the compact part of the town of Portsmouth, more than ten pounds of gun-powder at any time without the same is in a close carriage, or is sufficiently covered, on penalty of forfeiting the sum of one dollar for each offence, to be recovered and applied in the same manner as is herein before directed.

And be it further enacted, That the act to prevent the keeping large quantities of gun-powder in private houses in Portsmouth, passed the twenty-eighth day of