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(GENERAL REGULATIONS No. 45.)

UNDER THE ACT TO REGULATE THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS IN STEAMSHIPS AND OTHER VESSELS, APPROVED MARCH 3, 1855.

# TO COLLECTORS AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS.

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**
*March* 23, 1855.

The attention of collectors and other officers of the customs, as well as all persons interested and engaged in carrying passengers in steamships and other vessels, is specially called to the provisions of the annexed act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passengers in steamships and other vessels," and a strict compliance with its terms and provisions enjoined upon the aforesaid officers and other persons interested.

It will be observed that, whilst this act prescribes spaces of certain clear superficial feet of deck to each passenger, (other than cabin passengers,) it moreover fixes a maximum by restricting the number of such passengers allowed to be carried in any such vessel in the proportion of one to every two tons of said vessel's tonnage measurement, excluding children under the age of one year in the computation, and computing two children over one and under eight years of age as one passenger. It follows, that though a vessel might afford clear spaces of the dimensions indicated for a greater number of passengers than one to every two tons of her tonnage measurement, yet if the number shall exceed that allowed by her tonnage measurement, the penalties imposed by the law would attach; or if her tonnage measurement should allow a greater number of passengers than according to the clear spaces prescribed by law she could carry, yet if the number shall exceed that allowed by the clear spaces prescribed by law, the penalties imposed by the law would equally attach. In other words, the one rule, as to the number of passengers a vessel is entitled to carry, is a limitation upon the other. The tonnage of each vessel, according to custom-house measurement, must, therefore, be ascertained, as well as the measurement of the spaces allotted to passengers, in order to determine the number of passengers she is entitled to carry.

In order to determine the number of passengers a vessel is entitled to carry in accordance with the spaces prescribed by this act, the height between decks must be measured from the bottom edge of the carlings or deck beams to the top floor below; and no space shall be considered available for passengers that has not, when measured in this manner, the height called for by the law, as the case may be; nor shall any space in the vessel of a less width than four feet be measured; provided, however, if the vessel shall, in accordance with the provisions of the first section of this act, carry any portion of her cargo, or any other article or articles, on any of the decks, cabins, or other places appropriated to the use of passengers, in lockers or enclosures prepared for the purpose, the height between decks shall be measured from the bottom edge of the carlings or

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

12. January 1853--April 1855

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