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In Congress, Oct. 14: 1777

12.

Whereas the British nation have received into their ports, & condemned in their courts of admiralty, as Lawfull prize, several vessels & their cargoes, belonging to these States, which the masters & mariners, in breach of the trust & confidence reposed in them, have betrayed & delivered to the officers of the British crown,

ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

Resolved therefore

That any vessel or cargo, the property of any British subject, not an inhabitant of Bermuda, or any of the Bahama islands, brought into any of the ports or Harbours of any of these United States, by the master or mariners, shall be adjudged Lawfull prize, & divided among the captors, in the same proportion, as if taken by any continental vessel of war.

Extract from the minutes

Chas Thomson Sec.y.