Anno quarto & quinto
ANNÆ REGINÆ.

An Act for the better Ordering and Governing the Watermen and Lightermen upon the River of *Thames*.

WHereas by an Act of Parliament made in the First Year of the Reign of the late King James the First, Intituled, An Act concerning Wherrymen and Watermen, It is (amongst other things) Enacted, That no Wherryman or Waterman shall take any Apprentice, unless he shall be then of the Age of Eighteen Years at the least, except the Son of a Waterman, who by the said Act may be taken Apprentice at the Age of Sixteen Years: And whereas by one other Act of Parliament made in the Eleventh and Twelfth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Third, Intituled, An Act for the Explanation and better Execution of former Acts made touching Watermen and Wherrymen Rowing on the River of *Thames*, and for the better Ordering and Governing the said Watermen, Wherrymen and Lightermen upon the said River between *Gravesend* and *Windsor*, the said Watermen, Wherrymen and Lightermen are Impowered to make reasonable and lawful Rules, Orders, and Constitutions for their Government, in such manner as in the same Act is mentioned: And whereas several of the Rules, Orders and Constitutions which have been made under colour of the said last mentioned Act, especially the Fourth, which directs, that no Waterman shall have any more than one Apprentice at one time, nor shall be capable of taking an Apprentice, until such Waker hath been a Freeman Seven Years, nor shall take a Second Apprentice till his First be dead, or the Term expired; And that not any Lighterman shall take any Apprentice, until he is a real Owner of Two Lighters, nor shall have more than one Apprentice at one time, under the Penalties therein mentioned; have by Experience been found to be Prejudicial and Destructive to the Breeding of Sea-faring Men, and a great Burthen upon the Navigation and Trade of the said River of Thames, and of this Kingdom in general, and the same not being alterable otherwise than by the Authority of Parliament, or by the Consent of the said Company of Watermen and Lightermen, who have a long time refused to give their Consent thereto; For Remedy whereof, and for the better Encrease of Seamen for Her Majesties Service, and the Trade, the which is of so great Importance to this Kingdom, Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said Clause or Clauses in the said first recited Act of Parliament, that restrain the taking of Apprentices, till they shall arrive to the several Ages of Eighteen and Sixteen Years, as aforesaid, and also the said recited Rule, Order and Constitution, and all and every other Rule, Order and Constitution made for restraining of any

Waterman, Wherryman or Lighterman, that now are or hereafter shall be Free of the said Company, from Taking and Breeding of Apprentices, shall be, and is hereby Repealed, and Declared to be Void and of none Effect.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be Lawful for the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London for the time being, and they are hereby Authorized and Impowered, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to Review, Re-examine, Alter or Amender all such Rules and By-laws which relate to the Apprentices of Watermen and Lightermen, and all other Orders and Constitutions, which have been heretofore, or which shall hereafter be made for the Government of the said Company of Watermen and Lightermen; which said Alterations and Amendments shall be subject nevertheless to the Approbation of the Chief Justice of Her Majesties Court of Queens-Bench for the time being; and all such Rules, Orders and Constitutions as shall be hereafter Reviewed, Re-examined, Altered or Amended by the said Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, shall from time to time, and at all times hereafter, be Approved of, as aforesaid, and well and duly Observed and Put in Execution; The said recited Acts, or Rules, or any other Act, Clause, Rule, Order or Constitution to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided always, That this Act or any thing therein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to the Lessening, Taking away, Abridging, Hindring, Prejudicing, or otherwise howsoever Impeaching of any Right belonging to or lawfully claimed by the late Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, Lord of the Manor of Gravesend, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, for the holding a certain Court within the said Manor, called Curia Cursus Aquæ, or the Court of the Water-course for the better Government of Barges, Boats and Vessels, using the Ferry or Passage from the Town of Gravesend to London, and of the Persons Owning or Working the same, or of any other Rights, Liberties, Powers and Privileges whatsoever, belonging to the said late Duke, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, relating to the said Ferry or Passage, or to the Barges, Tilt-boats or other Boats and Vessels using the said Ferry or Passage, or Plying at the Bridge of the said Town of Gravesend, or the Persons Owning or Working the same, or otherwise howsoever.

Provided always, That this Act or any thing therein contained, shall not extend, or be construed to extend to the Lessening, Taking away, Abridging, Hindring, Prejudicing, or Impeaching of any Grants, Liberties, Franchises, Customs, Privileges or Usages, now or heretofore lawfully Used, Held or Enjoyed by the Mayor, Jurats and Capital Inhabitants of the Villages and Parishes of Gravesend and Milton in the County of Kent, touching, concerning or relating to the Passage and Ferry upon the said River of Thames, from the said Villages and Parishes of Gravesend and Milton, to the said City of London, or touching or concerning the Government or Gubernation of the said Passage and Ferry; but that the said Mayor, Jurats and Inhabitants, and their Successors, shall and may Do and Execute all and every such Lawful Act and Acts, Powers and Authorities, touching the said Passage and Ferry, and the Government thereof, as they might or could have done, if this Act had not been made; Any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

FINIS.