Anno quarto & quinto

Annæ Reginæ.

An Act for the better Enabling the Master, Wardens and Assistants of *Trinity-House*, to Rebuild the Light-House on the *Edystone* Rock.

Whereas in and by One Act of Parliament made in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, Intituled, An Act to Enable the Master, Wardens and Assistants of *Trinity-House* at *Deptford-Strond*, to Erect Sea-Marks, *&c.* They the said Master, Wardens and Assistants are Impowered to Erect and Set up Beacons, Marks and Signs for the Sea, needful for Avoiding of Dangers, and to Renew, Continue and Maintain the same, in such manner as in the said Act is mentioned: And whereas there now is, and time out of mind hath been, a very dangerous Rock, called the Edystone, lying off of Plymouth in the County of Devon, upon which divers Ships and Vessels have been cast away, and the Lives and Goods of many Subjects of this Kingdom lost and destroyed: And whereas upon Application some time since made to the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, by great numbers of Masters and Owners of Shipping, to have a Light-House Erected upon the said Rock, offering and agreeing, in consideration of the great Charge, Difficulty and Hazard of such an Undertaking, to pay to the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, One Peny per Ton Outwards, and the like Inwards, for all Ships and Vessels which should pass by such Light-House (Coasters excepted) who should pay Twelve Pence only for each Voyage; they the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, having a due Regard to the Safety and Preservation of the Shipping and Navigation of this Kingdom, did in the Year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred ninety six, cause a Light-House to be begun to be erected on the said Rock, and in Three Years time a Light was placed therein; And the said Light-House in the Term of Five Years was, with much Hazard and Difficulty,

and a very great Expence, fully built and completed, to the great Satisfaction of the Flagg-Officers and Commanders of the Fleet and Ships of War, and of all others concerned in Trade and Navigation, the same being not only useful for avoiding that dangerous Rock upon which it was built, but also a Guide and Direction to Ships passing through the Channel from and to all parts of the World: And whereas the said Light-House was preserved and kept up for several Years, notwithstanding the great Force and Violence of the Wind and Sea (to which it was exposed) until the late dreadful Storm in November, One thousand seven hundred and three, when the same was blown down and destroyed: And whereas it was found by Experience, That the said Light-House (during the standing thereof) was of Publick Use and Benefit to this Kingdom, a means to preserve Her Majesties Ships of War, and the Shipping, Lives and Estates of Her Subjects, and was useful and beneficial to Navigation; And forasmuch as the speedy Rebuilding the said Light House is absolutely necessary for avoiding the Dangers attending the Navigation and Trade of this Kingdom, and in regard the same is a Work of great Charge, Hazard and Expence, and all due and proper Encouragement ought to be given thereunto; To the end therefore that the said Master, Wardens and Assistants may be Encouraged to new erect and build, or cause to be new erected and built the said Light-House, with all convenient speed, and constantly to keep and maintain the same for the Benefit of the Navigation and Trade of this Kingdom, Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, at the humble Petition of the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, That from and after the Kindling or Placing a Light useful for Shipping in the said Light-House, so intended to be Rebuilt, as aforesaid, there shall be paid to the said Master, Wardens and Assistants of Trinity-House of Deptford-Strond, their Successors and Assigns, by the Masters and Owners of all English Ships, Hoys and Barks which shall pass by the said Light-House so intended to be erected, as aforesaid, (except Coasters) the Duty of One Peny per Ton Outward-bound, and also One Peny per Ton Inward bound, (that is to say) Of the Merchant one moiety, and of the Owner of the Ship, Hoy or Bark the other moiety; and of all such Stranger or Aliens Ships and Vessels, as shall happen to pass by the said Light-House or Beacon, the Sum of Two Pence for every Ton of the Burthen of the said Ship or Vessel; and that every Coaster passing by the said Light-House so to be erected, shall pay the Duty of Two Shillings, and no more, for each time they shall pass by the said Light-House, the said several Duties to be Collected and Received by such Person or Persons as the said Master, Wardens and Assistants, or their Successors, shall appoint in that behalf, in such Port or Place whence such Ship, Hoy or Bark shall set forth, or where such Ship, Hoy or Bark shall arrive before they load or unload the Goods therein; The said Duties to be recovered by Action of Debt in any Court of Record at Westminster, wherein no Essoign, Wager of Law, or Protection shall be allowed, nor more than One Imparlance.

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FINIS.