Anno vicesimo nono

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act to enable the Commissioners for building a Bridge cross the River of *Thames*, from the City of *Westminster*, to the opposite Shore in the County of *Surry*, to purchase Houses and Grounds, and to widen the Ways, and make more safe and commodious the Streets, Avenues, and Passages, leading from *Charing Cross*, to *The Two Houses of Parliament*, *Westminster Hall*, and the Courts of Justice there, and *Westminster Bridge*; and to enable a less Number of Commissioners to execute the several Acts relating to the said Bridge, than at present are required by Law; and for Relief of *George* and *James King*, with regard to a Lease taken by their late Father from the said Commissioners.

WHEREAS the Commissioners for building a Bridge cross the River Thames, from the Woolstaple, or thereabouts, in the Parish of Saint Margaret in the City of Westminster, to the opposite Shore in the County of Surry, are by virtue of several former Acts of Parliament passed in the Reign of His present Majesty, or by virtue of some or One of them, impowered to make, open, design, assign, and lay out such new Ways, Streets, and Passages, as they shall find proper to be opened Preamble.

opened and made on each Side the River Thames, to and from the ſaid Bridge, the Courts of Juſtice, both Houſes of Parliament, and the Parts adjacent, and to agree for, and purchaſe ſuch Houſes and Grounds as they ſhall find neceſſary for them to be poſſeſſed of, and to be removed, rebuilt, pulled down, or employed for thoſe Purpoſes, comprized within certain Bounds and Limits particularly mentioned and deſcribed in the ſaid reſpective Acts, or ſome or One of them: And whereas the Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Paſſages, leading from Charing Croſs, in the Pariſh of Saint Martin in the Fields, in the Liberty of Weſtminſter, in the County of Middleſex, to The Two Houſes of Parliament, Weſtminſter Hall, and the Courts of Juſtice there, and Weſtminſter Bridge, might be rendered more open, ſafe, and commodious, for the Eaſe of Paſſengers and the publick Benefit, than they are at preſent, in caſe the ſaid Commiſſioners were enabled to open and widen the ſaid laſt-mentioned Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Paſſages, and to purchaſe, pull down, and remove ſuch Buildings, Houſes, Grounds, and Eſtates (not comprized within the Bounds or Limits preſcribed by any of the ſaid former Acts of Parliament) as they ſhould think proper and neceſſary for thoſe Purpoſes: Wherefore for promoting a Deſign ſo uſeful and Beneficial to the Publick; May it pleaſe your moſt Excellent Majeſty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's 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, That the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall have full Power and Authority to open and widen, in ſuch Manner as they ſhall think proper, all the Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Paſſages, now leading from Charing Croſs aforeſaid, to the ſaid Two Houſes of Parliament, Weſtminſter Hall, the ſaid Courts of Juſtice, and the ſaid Bridge.

Commiſſioners impowered to widen the Streets, &c. leading from *Charing Croſs* to *The Two Houſes of Parliament*, &c.

And, for the better Performance and Execution thereof; be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall have full Power and Authority to agree with the Owner or Owners, and Occupier or Occupiers, for the Purchaſe of the Freehold and Inheritance of all and every ſuch Building or Buildings, Houſe or Houſes, Grounds and Eſtates, as they the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think it neceſſary for them to be poſſeſſed of, or to be removed, rebuilt, pulled down, diſpoſed, or employed, for the Purpoſes of this Act, com-

Commiſſioners may agree with the Owners of Buildings for the Purchaſe of any Freehold within the Limits herein deſcribed, as they ſhall think neceſſary to be removed, &c.

prized within the Bounds and Limits following; that is to say, Situate, standing, lying, or being, upon, near, or adjoining, to all or any of the said Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, now leading from Charing Cross aforesaid, to The Two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall, and the Courts of Justice there, and Westminster Bridge) except such Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates, as are situate, lying, or being on the East Side of the Street, leading from Charing Cross aforesaid, towards His Majesty's Palace of Whitehall; and also to purchase and become possessed of the Freehold and Inheritance of all such last-mentioned Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates (except those herein before excepted) and of all Rent Charges, Annuities, Mortgages, Terms of Years, or Incumbrances whatsoever affecting the same; any thing in the said several former Acts of Parliament, or any of them, contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And whereas it may happen that some Person or Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Femes Covert, and their Husbands in the Right of such Femes Covert respectively, Trustees or Feoffees in Trust, Guardians, and Committees for Lunaticks and Ideots, Executors, Administrators, or other Trustees, or Guardians for Femes Covert, Infants, Issue unborn, or other Cestuique Trusts, or for some charitable or other Use or Uses, or others, who are themselves, or whose respective Wards or Cestuique Trusts, are seised, possessed of, or intitled unto, some of the Buildings, Houses, Grounds, or Estates, which may be thought necessary to be purchased, removed, pulled down, disposed of, or employed, by the said Commissioners within the Bounds and Limits, and for the Purposes, mentioned and prescribed in and by this Act, or of some Estate or Interest therein, or of some Charge or Incumbrance affecting the same, may be willing to treat for and agree to sell such Buildings, Houses, Grounds, or Estates, in order to perfect the useful and beneficial Works intended by this Act; but are incapable of granting or conveying the same, by reason of some Disability; or not being under any Disability, may refuse to treat, agree for, or sell the same; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, in order to purchase and become possessed of the several Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates, to be purchased by virtue of, and under this Act, take, use, and follow, all or any such Ways, Means, Methods, and Proceedings, and observe such Rules and Directions,

Commissioners to observe all such Rules and Directions in order for purchasing the several Buildings, &c. as by any former Acts passed in His present Majesty's Reign, they are enabled to use and observe.

Directions, as by any Act or Acts of Parliament heretofore passed in the Reign of His present Majesty, they are enabled to take, use, follow, and observe, in order to purchase or be possessed of any other Houses, Grounds, and Estates; and that all and every the Powers and Authorities, Clauses, Rules, Forms, and Directions, prescribed, mentioned, expressed, and contained, in each and every of the said Act and Acts of Parliament heretofore passed in the Reign of His present Majesty, in any wise relating to the said Commissioners purchasing or becoming possessed of any other Houses, Grounds, or Estates whatsoever, or to any Body or Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, selling, disposing of, or conveying, any Houses, Grounds, or Estates, by any of the said last-mentioned Act or Acts directed to be sold, purchased, and conveyed, or for obliging the High Bailiff of Westminster to summon Juries, and for obliging such Juries to assess the Value of any such Houses, Grounds, or Estates, or any Interest therein, in case any Person or Persons having, or claiming to have, any such Estate or Interest, shall refuse to sell or convey the same to the said Commissioners, or to manifest a sufficient Title thereto; or in case the Person or Persons intitled to any such Estate or Interest therein cannot be found, or to the Disposal, paying, depositing, or vesting of any Sum or Sums of Money thereby directed to be disposed of, paid, deposited, or vested, as the Considerations for the Purchase of, or Value assessed for any of the said Houses, Grounds, or Estates, or to the obliging Persons to produce Title Deeds, Books, Papers, or Writings, for Inspection and Perusal, or to the obliging any Persons to appear and be examined on Oath as Witnesses, and every other Rule, Clause, Matter, and Thing, in each and every of the said last-mentioned Act and Acts of Parliament mentioned and contained, and now being in Force, shall, and are hereby declared to be of full Force and Effect, to all Intents and Purposes, for enabling the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to purchase the Freehold and Inheritance, and to become possessed of, and to pull down and remove any of the Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates, within the Bounds or Limits mentioned and prescribed in this present Act, and shall extend, and be, in all Respects, deemed and construed to extend to all and every the said last-mentioned Buildings, Houses, Grounds and Estates, and to all Bodies Politick, Corporate, and Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate and Sole, Femes Covert, and their Husbands, Trustees, and Feoffees

All the Powers mentioned in every of the said former Acts relating to the Commissioners purchasing Houses, &c. to be in Force with relation to this Act.

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in Trust, Guardians, and Committees for Lunaticks and Ideots, Executors, Administrators, and all other Trustees and Guardians, whether for Femes Covert, Infants, Issue unborn, or other Cestuique Trusts, or for any charitable or other Use or Uses, and to all other Persons whatsoever, having, or claiming to have, either in their own Right, or otherwise howsoever, any Estate, Right, Title, or Interest, in, to, or out of, any of the said last-mentioned Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates, and to the Methods and Proceedings for conveying and absolutely assuring the same to the said Commissioners, or their Trustees, with good Titles, usual and reasonable Covenants, and free from Incumbrances, and for barring, docking, and cutting off all Estates Tail, Dower, and Right of Dower, and also to bar the Right of all and every Person and Persons who shall not enter their said Claim or Claims, and prosecute the same with Effect, in the Manner, and within the Times, prescribed and limited by the said Acts of Parliament, or some or One of them, as fully and effectually as if the said Powers and Authorities, Rules, Forms, Directions, Clauses, Matters, and Things, mentioned and contained in each of the said Acts of Parliament heretofore passed in the Reign of His present Majesty, were particularly, and at large, repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this present Act.

His Majesty may convey Buildings, &c. to the Commissioners.

And whereas several of the Buildings, Houses, Grounds, and Estates, within the Bounds and Limits mentioned and prescribed in this present Act, are the Property of the Crown, and may be subject to several perpetual Stipends, or other yearly Payments; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and to and for such Persons who are or shall be Trustees for His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, to sell, convey, alien, and dispose of to the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, or to such Person or Persons as they shall nominate and appoint in their Behalf, all or any Buildings, Houses, Grounds, Estates, and Hereditaments, situate, lying, and being within the Bounds and Limits prescribed by this Act, for such Estate and Interest as is or are vested in His Majesty, or to accept, receive, or take in exchange for the same, a like Quantity of Ground near or adjoining thereto, notwithstanding any thing contained to the contrary in the Act of Parliament made in the First Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled, An Act for the better Support of Her Majesty's Household, and the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, or any other Statute whatsoever; and that such yearly Stipends, Rents,

Recital of an Act of 1 *Anne*.

and other Out Payments issuing out of and chargeable upon the Premisses so to be purchased from the King's Majesty's, His Heirs, or Successors, shall be charged by the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, upon some other Part of the Lands and Grounds to be purchased by the Commissioners, pursuant to and for the Purposes of this Act; and that until such yearly Stipends, Rents, or other Payments shall be effectually secured for the Benefit of the Persons intitled to the same respectively, they shall be paid out of the Money under the Disposition of the Commissioners, which shall arise by virtue of this present Act.

And whereas by means of the Purchases which the said Commissioners are hereby impowered to make, they may be possessed of One or more Piece or Pieces of Ground over and above what may be necessary for the opening and widening the said Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages now leading from Charing Cross aforesaid, to the said Two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall, and the Courts of Justice there, and the said Bridge, and for other the Purposes of this Act; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to let, sell, or dispose of any such last-mentioned Piece or Pieces of Ground, either together or in Parcels, as they shall find most advantageous and convenient, to any Person or Persons who shall be willing to contract, agree for, or purchase the same; and likewise to give, grant, and convey any such Piece or Pieces of Ground, or any Part or Parts thereof, either to or to the Use of or in Trust for His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, or to any other Person or Persons, and his, her, or their Heirs and Assigns, in exchange for a like Quantity of other Ground near or adjoining thereto; and that it shall and may also be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to design, assign, and lay out in what Manner any new Houses shall be erected and built on any of the said Piece or Pieces of Ground which they may be possessed of as aforesaid, over and above what may be necessary for the opening and widening of the said last-mentioned Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, and likewise of what Breadth and Extent each and every or any of those Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, shall be, and also to sell and dispose of the Materials of such House or Houses, Building or Buildings, as they the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall purchase and cause to be pulled down, by virtue of this Act.

Commissioners may dispose of any Piece of Ground to such Persons as shall be willing to purchase the same, &c.

Provided always, That the Monies arising by the Sale or Letting of such Grounds, and selling the Materials of the Houses and Buildings to be purchased and pulled down as aforesaid, shall be employed, paid, and disposed of, by the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, towards defraying the Charges and Expences of executing the Powers and Trusts hereby in them reposed. Monies arising by the Sale of Grounds, &c. how to be disposed of.

And, in Order to preserve the said Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, hereby intended to be opened and widened, when the same shall be so opened and widened, and also the Houses and Buildings that shall be erected on any of the Grounds which shall be let or sold by the said Commissioners, by virtue of this Act, free from Nuisances and Annoyances, and to preserve the Uniformity and Beauty thereof, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That a certain Act of Parliament passed in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act for granting further Powers to the Commissioners for building a Bridge cross the River *Thames*, from the City of *Westminster* to the opposite Shore in the County of *Surry*; and for the better enabling them to finish the said Bridge, and to perform the other Trusts reposed in them; and all and every the Powers, Authorities, Clauses, Matters, and Things, therein mentioned and contained, which are now in Force, shall extend to, and be deemed and taken to be to all Intents and Purposes in full Force, with respect to the said last-mentioned Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, when the same shall be so opened and widened as aforesaid, and to the Owners and Occupiers of such Houses and Buildings as shall be let or sold by the said Commissioners, by virtue of this Act, for effectually impowering and enabling them the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, from time to time, to perform, use, and exercise, all and every the like Powers and Authorities, for preserving the same Ways, Streets, Avenues, and Passages, and the said last-mentioned Houses and Buildings, free from Nuisances and Annoyances, or for abating any such Nuisances, and for preserving the Uniformity and Beauty of such Houses and Buildings, and for a better and more effectual enforcing the Covenants, Conditions, Agreements, Limitations, and Restrictions, under which the said Commissioners shall let or sell any Pieces of Ground or Buildings, by virtue of this Act, as are expressed and contained in the said Act of the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, with respect to the several Streets and Premisses

Act 18 *Geo. II.*

and all the Powers therein contained, to be in full Force, relating to the preserving of Ways, &c. intended to be widened by this Act.

therein mentioned, as fully as if the said several Powers, Authorities, Clauses, Matters, and Things, in that Act mentioned and contained, were particularly and at large repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this present Act.

10,000*l.* to be paid to the Commissioners for purchasing of Houses and Grounds for widening the Streets, &c. leading from *Charing Cross*, to *The Two Houses of Parliament*, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That out of all or any of the Aids or Supplies granted to His Majesty for the Service of the Year One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, there may and shall be applied and paid to the said Commissioners for building the said Bridge, or any Five or more of them, or to such Person or Persons as shall be appointed under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to receive the same, the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, without Account, other than as is herein after directed, to be applied towards purchasing Houses and Grounds, for widening the said Ways, and making more safe and commodious the Streets, Avenues, and Passages, leading from Charing Cross aforesaid, to the said Two Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall, and the Courts of Justice there, and Westminster Bridge, and the Payment of other incidental Charges and Expences attending the Execution of the several Trusts reposed in them, by virtue of this and the said former Acts, in such Manner, and at such Times, as the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall from time to time direct.

Commissioners to lay an Account of the Application of 10,000*l.* &c. before both Houses of Parliament.

And be it also enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners for building the said Bridge, shall lay an Account of the Application as well of the said Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, as of all other Monies raised by virtue of this and the said former Acts, and by them applied and expended, before both Houses of Parliament, within Twenty Days after the opening of every Session of Parliament, in the same Manner as they are directed to do by the said former Acts.

Charges of obtaining this Act, &c. to be paid out of the Monies to be raised by virtue hereof.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Costs and Charges as shall be expended in obtaining, or by reason of passing this present Act, and such Monies as shall become due to any Person or Persons employed in pursuance hereof, shall be paid out of the Monies to be raised by virtue hereof.

And whereas it would tend to the more easy and speedy Execution of the several Acts passed for building a Bridge cross the River Thames from the City of Westminster to the opposite Shore in the County of Surry, if a less Number of the Commissioners, appointed to put the said Acts in Execution, were authorized to execute the several Powers thereby

thereby given; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where by any of the said Acts any Seven or more of the said Commissioners are authorized and impowered to put the said Acts, or any of them, in Execution, it shall and may be lawful for any Five or more of the said Commissioners to execute the Powers and Authorities by the said Acts given and granted, and to do all other Matters and Things thereby directed, in as full, large, and ample Manner, to all Intents, Constructions, and Purposes whatsoever, as they the said Commissioners, or any Seven or more of them, are authorized and impowered to do; any thing in any of the said Acts contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

In all Cases where Seven Commissioners are impowered to put the former Acts in Execution, the same may be done by any Five.

And whereas the late James King, deceased, did, in the Year One thousand seven hundred and forty one, in order to encourage Building on the Bridge Lands, take a Building Lease of a Piece of Ground and Wharf at the Foot of Westminster Bridge in the County of Surry for Seventy two Years, at a Ground Rent of Ninety two Pounds per Annum, on Condition that One Year's Ground Rent should be paid on the first Quarter Day after the Bridge be passable, and in consequence thereof built several Houses at a very great Expence: And whereas the finishing of the said Bridge was protracted by an unavoidable Accident, to the great Loss of the Heirs of the said James King, who were thereby hindered from letting the said Houses for a long Time: And whereas the Ground on the opposite Side of the Street has been sold by the Commissioners for Westminster Bridge, upon much lower Terms than the said Ground was lett to the said late James King, but a Doubt having arisen, whether the said Commissioners are authorized to grant any Relief to the Heirs of the said James King; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to accept a Surrender of the said Building Lease made in the Year One thousand seven hundred and forty one, and to release and discharge James and George King, Heirs of the late James King, from the Conditions and Limitations contained in the same, and afterwards to lett or sell the said Lands to the said James and George King, upon such Conditions, or for such Consideration, as to the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall appear reasonable; so that the said Lands shall not be lett or sold to the said James and George King, at a lower Rate than Two Thirds of the present Rent; such Allowance to be made to them for the Vaults and Common Sewer, as to

Commissioners to accept a Surrender of a Building Lease made by *James King* in 1741, and to discharge *James* and *George King* from the Conditions contained in the same.

to the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall appear reasonable.

Commissioners indemnified for what they shall do in pursuance of this Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, and each and every other Person and Persons authorized by the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, to do any Act in Execution of any of the Powers intended to be hereby vested in the said Commissioners, are and shall be hereby indemnified for what they shall do in pursuance of this Act;

Limitation of Actions.

and that if any Action shall be brought, or Suit commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, or in relation to the Premisses herein before mentioned, every such Action or Suit shall be laid or brought within Six Months after the Fact done, and such Action shall be laid in the County of Middlesex, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may be at Li-

General Issue.

berty to plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the special Matter, in Evidence, without specially pleading the same.

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