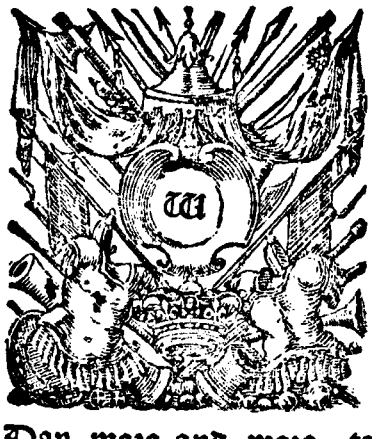
Anno tricesimo primo

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for ascertaining and collecting the Poors Rates, and for better regulating the Poor in the Parish of Saint *Mary Magdalen Bermondsey* in the County of *Surry*.



WHEREAS many Disputes and Difficulties have arisen in the Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey in the County of Surry, touching the ascertaining and collecting of the Rates made for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor therein, and the Poor of the said Parish are greatly increased, and Idleness and Debauchery among the Meaner Sort, prevail every Day more and more, to the excessive Charge and Burthen of the Inhabitants, and to the manifest Distress of the deserving Poor: And whereas the making a general equal Pound Rate for the Relief of the Poor in the said Parish, and the giving sufficient Power and Authority to provide for the sickly and distress, and to compell the indolent Poor to work, would in a great Measure remedy the said Grievances; May it therefore 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 from and after the passing of this Act, the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestry- Preamble.

Churchwardens, Overseers, and Vestrymen to meet annually in Vestry in *Whitsun Week* to ascertain the Poor's Rate;

men of the said Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey, or any Nine or more of them, shall, and they are hereby authorized and required, to assemble and meet together in the Vestry-room in the said Parish Church, annually on Thursday in Whitsun Week in the Forenoon, or oftner, from time to time, as Occasion shall require; and then and there ascertain the Monies to be assessed within the Limits of the said Parish, for the Relief of the Poor therein, as they in their Discretion shall think sufficient to answer all the Ends and Purposes of the several Statutes for the Relief of the Poor, and for carrying this present Act into Execution.

and to meet again within 8 Days after, to make an Assessment for the same.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, shall assemble and meet together in the said Vestry-room of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey, within Eight Days next after the said Sums of Money shall have been so ascertained as aforesaid, or oftner, from time to time, as Occasion shall require; and at such Meeting or Meetings shall, and are hereby required to make One general equal Pound Rate or Assessment for the Relief of the Poor in the said Parish, upon all and every Person or Persons, who do and shall inhabit, hold, occupy, or enjoy, any Land, Ground, Wharf, House, Shop, Warehouse, Building, Waterworks, Mooring, Chains, Tenement, or Hereditament, within the said Parish, according to the yearly Rent or Value thereof, and on every other Person or Persons, who by Law is or are chargeable or rateable for and towards the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish, to be entered and kept in One or more Book or Books for that Purpose; in which said Book or Books, there shall be Four Distinct Columns for the Four Quarters, and a Fifth Column for the Sum Total of the said Four Quarters, overagainst the Name of every Person charged to the said Rate or Assessment, for the more easy Collection thereof.

Rate to be enter'd in Books divided into proper Columns.

And whereas there are divers Houses, Buildings, Lands, Grounds, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in the said Parish, which are taken on Leases for Years or otherwise, and by the Lessees or Tenants let out in Parcels to Under-tenants, and there are other Houses let out to Lodgers in separate Apartments, by which Means the Payment of this Parochial Tax is evaded: For Remedy whereof be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lessee or Owner of each and every such House, Building, Land, Ground, Tenement, or Hereditament, to let out or to be let out, in Parcels or separate Apartments as aforesaid,

Lessee or Owner of Houses, &c. let out in Parcels, &c. to

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said, shall be deemed and taken to be the Occupier or Occupiers thereof, and shall be liable and subject to the Payment of the Rates or Assessments by this Act directed to be raised and levied, according to the yearly reserved Rent or Value of the Premisses. liable to the Rate;

And for the more easy Recovery of the said Rates or Assessments; be it further enacted, That each and every Person or Persons so renting or occupying any such Parcel or separate Apartment as aforesaid, shall be liable and compellable to the Payment of the said Rates. and Occupier to pay the same,

Provided always, That each and every such Occupier or Occupiers, who shall pay any such Rate or Assessment, or from whom the same shall be recovered, shall and may deduct the same, from and out of the next Rent due and payable from him, her, or them, to the respective Lessee or Owner, and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to such Tenant or Tenants, Occupier or Occupiers, to his, her, or their said Landlord, for so much Money as he, she, or they shall pay, or shall be levied on him, her, or them, by virtue of this Act. and deduct it out of the Rent;

Provided also, That no such Tenant or Occupier of any Part, Parcel, or separate Apartment of any House, Building, Land, Ground, Tenement, or Hereditament, shall by the Payment of such Rate or Assessment in Manner aforesaid, be deemed to acquire any Settlement in the said Parish by such Payment, but that the Lessee or Owner shall be deemed and construed to all Intents and Purposes to have paid the same; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding. but not to gain any Settlement thereby.

And whereas Persons frequently remove without paying the Rates assessed on them, and other Persons do enter and occupy their Lands, Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Part of the Year, by Reason whereof great Sums of Money may be annually lost; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Person or Persons, shall come into or occupy any House, Land, Tenement, or Hereditament, or other Premisses, out of or from which any other Person assessed shall be removed, or which at the Time of making such Rate was empty or unoccupied, that then every Person removing from, and every Person so coming into or occupying the same, shall be liable to pay such Rate in Proportion to the Time that such Persons occupied the same respectively, in the same Manner as if such Person so removing had not removed, or such Person so coming in or occupying had been originally rated and assessed in such Rate; which said Proportion shall Persons removing from, or coming into the Parish, to pay to the Rate proportionably to the Time they shall have occupied a House, &c. therein.

be ascertained by the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them; and in case of any Dispute, shall be settled by any Two or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Surry.

Treasurer to be appointed

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, or any Nine or more of them, at a Publick Meeting to be held pursuant to the Directions of this Act, shall, if they think fit, annually, or oftner, appoint One or more Treasurer or Treasurers for the Receipt of the Monies to be collected by the said Rates or Assessments, and of all other Monies whatsoever, applicable to the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish, and shall and may, from time to time, remove such Treasurer or Treasurers, and appoint any other Person or Persons in his or their Room and Stead; and such Treasurer or Treasurers are hereby directed to account annually, or oftner if thereunto required by the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, in such Manner as the Overseers of the Poor are, by the Laws now in being, directed to account for the Monies by them received and paid for the Relief of the Poor, and to pay such Money as upon the said Account shall appear to be remaining in his or their Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, at any publick Meeting as aforesaid, shall authorize and appoint to receive the same, to be applied to and for the several Uses and Purposes for which the same was levied and raised; and in Default of rendering such Account as aforesaid, or paying the Money in his or their Hands as aforesaid, shall be liable to such Penalties, Forfeitures, and Distress, as Overseers of the Poor in the like Cases are liable unto.

He may be removed.

He is to account annually or oftner, if required,

and to pay over the Money in his Hands, according to Order of the Vestry.

Penalty on Default.

Governors and Directors of the Poor to be chosen annually in *Whitsun* Week.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey, shall assemble and meet in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, on Thursday in Whitsun-Week yearly, or within Eight Days after, and at such Meeting any Nine or more of them shall then and there nominate and appoint Twelve or more substantial and discreet Persons residing in the said Parish, out of their own Body, One Half Part of which Number shall be resident in the

East-side Division of the said Parish, and the other half Part in the Water-side Division thereof; and such Persons to appointed, together with the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Surry, resident in the said Parish, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the time being, shall be called Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish, and shall and may make such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, for the better Disposition of such Monies as shall be raised and received for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, and for the better maintaining, governing, employing, and regulating, the Poor of the said Parish, as to them, or any Five or more of them, from time to time, assembled at any Publick Meeting to be held in the Work-house belonging to the said Parish, shall appear necessary & expedient; but no such Rules, Orders, or Regulations, shall be in Force, until confirmed by the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestry of the said Parish, or any Nine or more of them, at a Publick Meeting assembled pursuant to this Act; nor shall any such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, when made and confirmed, be repealed or altered, except at a Publick Meeting of the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, who or any Nine or more of them, at a Publick Meeting assembled pursuant to this Act, are hereby impowered, from time to time, to repeal or alter the same, in such Manner as they shall think proper; provided always, that such Rules and Regulations are not repugnant to the Laws of this Realm.

They may make By-Laws concerning the Disposition of the Money raised, and employing, &c. the Poor; which are to be confirmed by the Vestry; and may be repealed by them.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors of the Poor, or any Five or more of them, shall, and they are hereby impowered, by Writing under their Hands, to order and direct the said Treasurer or Treasurers, from time to time, to pay all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be by him or them received, in such Manner, as they shall think necessary for the Purposes of this Act; and the said Treasurer or Treasurers are hereby authorized and required to pay the same, from time to time, accordingly; which Sum or Sums so paid, shall be allowed him or them in his or their Accounts respectively.

Governors to direct the Payment of Monies by the Treasurer.

And be it further enacted, That no Governor, Director, Treasurer, or Overseer of the Poor for the time being, either in his own or any other Person's Name, shall provide, furnish, or supply, for his or their own Profit, any Goods, Materials, or Provisions, for the Use of the Workhouse or Workhouses erected or to be erected in

Governors, &c. to be no ways interested in furnishing or providing for the Poor;

or concerned in any Contract relating thereto.

in the said Parish, for the Support and Maintenance of the Poor, or be concerned in any Contract or Contracts relating thereto, during the Time of his being such Governor, Director, Treasurer, or Overseer.

Governors may employ the Poor, and purchase Materials for that Purpose, and apply the Profits to their Support;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Governors and Directors of the Poor to be appointed as aforesaid, or any Five or more of them, at any Publick Meeting to be held in the said Workhouse, shall, and they are hereby impowered, to keep, maintain, and employ, all such Poor of the said Parish, in any Workhouse or Workhouses erected or to be erected in the said Parish, and to purchase Materials for that Purpose, and to take the Benefit of the Work, Labour, and Service, of every such Person or Persons who shall be kept and maintained in such House or Houses, to be applied towards the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor of the said Parish.

or they may contract for the Maintenance and Employment of the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors of the Poor, or any Five or more of them, shall, and they are hereby impowered to contract and agree, from time to time, if they think fit, with any Person or Persons for the lodging, keeping, maintaining, or employing, any or all such Poor of the said Parish, and to pay the Monies due or to become due upon such Contracts and Agreements to the Person or Persons intitled to receive the same, out of the Monies to be raised and collected by Authority of this Act.

Churchwardens or Overseers refusing to join in any of the said Regulations, &c. Governors may act without them.

Provided always, That in case the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, shall refuse or neglect to meet or to join in making such Rules, Orders, Regulations, Contracts, or Agreements, as aforesaid, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governors and Directors, or any Five or more of them, to make such Rules, Orders, or Regulations, and to enter into such Contract or Contracts, and to perform the same; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas many Persons maintained in Publick Workhouses refuse to work, or are guilty of profane Cursing and Swearing, Drunkenness, or other Misbehaviour, and by the Laws now in being, no Punishment can be inflicted upon them, without committing them to the House of Correction or Common Gaol, which Commitments have not been found to answer the Purpose thereby intended; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any poor Person maintained in any Workhouse or Workhouses belonging to the said Parish, shall

shall refuse to Work, or shall embezzle or purloin the Goods or Provisions thereof, or Materials for Work, or be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, Drunkenness, or any lewd, immoral, or indecent Behaviour, or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, it shall and may be lawful to and for any Five Governors and Directors, to cause such Person or Persons so offending to be punished in such Workhouse, either by moderate Correction, Confinement, distinguishing them in Dress, or such other Method as may best tend to remedy such Offences for the future, without committing such Offenders to the House of Correction or other Prison; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Governors impowered to punish such of the Poor as shall be idle, disorderly, or immoral.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Rates or Assessments directed to be made by this Act, shall be collected, levied, and recovered, by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the time being, or any One of them, or any Collector or Collectors to be chosen in Manner herein after mentioned, on the Person or Persons hereby directed to pay the same, in such Manner as the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor are directed to be levied and recovered by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, by an Act passed in the Forty third Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, An Act for the Relief of the Poor, or by any subsequent Act or Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor; which said several Methods of levying and recovering the said Rates or Assessments for the Relief of the Poor, shall, and they are hereby declared to be legal Methods and Ways of enforcing the Payment of the Rates or Assessments directed to be made in pursuance of this Act, and Arrears thereof, as fully and effectually as if such Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act.

Rates by whom to be collected, and how to be levied.

Act 43 *Eliz.*

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, or any Nine or more of them, at a Publick Meeting to be held pursuant to this Act, shall and may, from time to time, if they think fit, chuse and appoint One or more fit Person or Persons to be Collector or Collectors of the said Rates or Assessments to be raised and levied by virtue of this Act; and such Collector or Collectors is and are hereby authorized and impowered to collect and levy the same accordingly; And for the bet-

Power to appoint Collectors of the Rates.

ter enabling him or them so to do, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors to execute all such Warrants of Distress as shall be granted or issued from time to time by the Justices of the Peace against the Person or Persons neglecting or refusing to pay the said Rates, in the same Manner, and as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as Overseers of the Poor, by any Law or Laws now in being, can or may execute like Warrants for recovering the Rates assessed for the Relief of the Poor; and the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, or any Nine or more of them, at any Publick Meeting to be held as aforesaid, shall and may, from time to time, remove such Person or Persons from being Collector or Collectors of the said Rates, and appoint any other Person or Persons in his or their Room or Stead; and shall and may, out of such Rates or Assessments to be collected as aforesaid, make such Allowance to the Collector or Collectors to be appointed as aforesaid, for his or their Trouble in collecting the same, as they, or the major Part of them so assembled as aforesaid, shall think fit, not exceeding Six Pence in the Pound; and they are hereby required to take such Security of the Collector or Collectors so by them to be appointed for the faithful accounting for all such Monies as he or they shall receive by virtue of his or their Office, as to them the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, so assembled, or the major Part of them, shall appear a sufficient Security for the Monies to be received by such Collector or Collectors; and such Collector or Collectors shall, and he and they are hereby impowered and required to collect the said Rates by Quarterly Payments, and from time to time to pay over such Monies so by them collected, to such Person or Persons as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, at a Publick Meeting to be held as aforesaid, or any Nine or more of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorize and appoint to receive the same, to be applied for the Relief of the Poor in the said Parish; and the said Collector or Collectors shall make up and render to the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, Four Times in every Year, or oftner, if thereunto required, a full, true, and perfect Account upon Oath, of all the Monies so collected and received by him or them, by virtue of this Act; which Oath the said Vestrymen, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered to administer;

Collectors impowered to levy the Rates by Distress,

they may be removed.

Allowance to be made them for their Trouble in collecting;

they are to give Security.

Rates to be collected by them Quarterly; and the Money to be paid over to Order of Vestry.

Accounts to be rendered by them upon Oath, Quarterly, or oftner, if required:

ster: And if such Collector or Collectors shall refuse or neglect to give in a just Account as aforesaid, or to pay the Monies remaining in his or their Hands in the Manner aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Surry, upon Complaint made to them by any One of the Churchwardens, or any Two or more Vestrymen of the said Parish, and Proof thereof by the Oath of any One or more of them (which Oath the said Justices are hereby authorized and impowered to administer) by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit such Person or Persons to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until he or they shall have made a true Account, and until such Money as upon the said Account shall appear to be remaining in his or their Hands, shall be paid and satisfied by such Person or Persons, or by his or their Security or Securities, or shall have compounded for the same, and have paid such Composition-money unto such Person or Persons to be appointed as aforesaid; and which Composition the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, at any Publick Meeting to be held as aforesaid, are hereby impowered to make. On Default, to be committed till Payment or Composition be made.

And it is hereby further enacted, That when and as often as any Distress shall, by the Authority of this or any other of the Acts aforesaid, be made for Non-payment of any of the said Rates hereby directed to be made, or any Part thereof, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Person or Persons making such Distress, to raise and levy the reasonable Charges of making such Distress, over and above the Sum of Money due upon the Rate or Rates for which such Distress is or shall be taken. Charges of Distress to be levied with the Rate.

Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall find him, her, or themselves aggrieved by such Rates or Assessments, he, she, or they shall first apply to the Vestry of the said Parish, and if not relieved, shall be obliged to pay such Rates or Assessments; and then upon an Appeal to the General or Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Surry, which shall happen next after Fourteen Days from the Payment of such Rates or Assessments respectively, or from the making any Distress for such Rates or Assessments, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace, or the major Part of them then assembled, to cause so much Money to be returned to such Person or Persons, who shall appeal as aforesaid, as shall appear to the said Justices to have been overpaid by such Person Method of Relief in case of being overrated.

Person or Persons to the said Rates or Assessments respectively, and to make such Order therein, as to them shall seem meet; which Order shall be final and conclusive to all the Parties.

Monies received on account of the Poor, to be paid over to the Treasurer,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Monies to be collected by virtue of the Rates or Assessments hereby directed to be made, and all other Monies whatsoever which shall come to the Hands of the said Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor, applicable to the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish, shall be by them from time to time paid unto the Treasurer or Treasurers to be appointed within the said Parish, so soon as such Monies shall be received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or they shall be required by the said Treasurer or Treasurers to make Payment thereof; and in case the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, Collector or Collectors, or any of them, shall neglect or refuse to render an Account of the Monies by them received, or to make such Payment thereof as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Surry, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit the Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing, to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall have accounted and paid as aforesaid, or shall have compounded for the same with the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, who are hereby impowered to make such Composition, and shall have paid the Composition-money.

on Penalty of Commitment,

till Payment or Composition be made.

Laws relating to the Poor to be in Force, where not altered by this Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Laws now in being relating to the Overseers of the Poor, and for the Relief of the Poor, shall continue in Force within the said Parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey (except where the same are altered by this present Act) any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

No Poor Rate to be made, but what the Act directs.

Provided always, That no Rate or Rates shall be made for the Relief of the Poor in the said Parish, other than is in and by this Act directed.

Penalty of buying, taking in Pawn, or secreteing, &c. Cloaths, Goods, or Materials, &c. furnished to the Poor;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, receive into Pawn, or secrete any of the Cloathes or Wearing Apparel of any of the Poor, who at the Time of passing this Act, or at any Time after, shall be received into and maintained in the Workhouse of the said Parish, or any of the Goods or Materials carried into

the said Workhouse, to be wrought up, manufactured, or used by the Poor there, or any of the Goods and Furniture of the said Workhouse, or shall buy or receive any of the Provisions allotted to or provided for the Poor in the said Workhouse, every Person so offending shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds upon Conviction, by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County of Surry; which Penalty of Five Pounds shall be levied by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of the said Justice or Justices, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Offender, One Moiety of the said Penalty to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Overseers of the Poor, for the Use of the said Parish; and if no Goods or Chatties can be found whereon to make such Distress, or that the said Penalty shall not be forthwith paid, then and in such Case, such Justice or Justices shall and may by Warrant under his and their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Months.

to be levied by Distress and Sale.

For want of Distress, Offender to be committed.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That an Account of the Total Sums assessed, collected, and received within each Division of the said Parish, and of all the Monies paid and disbursed for all or any of the Purposes mentioned in this Act, shall be fairly entered in a Book or Books to be provided for that Purpose, by the Vestry Clerk of the said Parish for the time being; and on or before the Twenty fourth Day of June yearly, the same shall be examined, adjusted, and signed by Nine or more of the Vestry duly assembled at a Meeting for that Purpose, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in the said Parish, Collector and Collectors, being previously sworn to their Accounts; which said Book or Books and Accounts shall be lodged in such proper Place as shall be appointed by the said Vestry, under the Care of the said Vestry Clerk, and shall and may at all seasonable Times be inspected and perused by any of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, who shall desire the same, gratis.

Account to be enter'd with the Vestry Clerk of the Money received in each Division, and Monies expended;

the same to be audited yearly.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Meeting shall be held by the said Churchwardens, Overseers, and Vestrymen, for the Execution of this Act, unless publick Notice be given of such Meeting in the Church of the said Parish, immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon on the

Notice of all Meetings of the Vestry for the Purposes of this Act.

Meetings to be in the Vestry-Room.

Lord's Day next before every such Meeting; and all such Meetings shall be held at the Vestry-room in the said Parish, and that the several Authorities and Powers hereby granted to the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, shall be respectively carried into Execution by the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such Meetings as shall be held by virtue of this Act, such major Part not being less in Number than is herein before respectively mentioned.

All Resolutions, &c. to pass by Majority of the Vestry present.

Charges of passing this Act to be paid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Charges of passing this Act, and other Charges incident thereto, shall be borne, paid, and defrayed out of the first Monies to be raised by the Rates to be made by virtue of this Act.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Suit shall be brought or commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, or in relation thereto, that in every such Case, the Action shall be commenced within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid and brought in the County of Surry, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants, in such Action or Actions to be brought, may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in pursuance, and by Authority of, this Act; and if it shall appear to be so done; or if any such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time before limitted for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County, City, or Place, than the County of Surry; that then and in such Case, the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and if upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions; or if a Verdict shall pass against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; or if upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit in other Cases by Law.

General Issue.

Treble Costs.

Publick Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Publick Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.

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