Anno tricesimo primo

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act to explain, amend, and render more effectual an Act passed in the Ninth and Tenth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty King *William* the Third, intituled, *An Act for erecting Hospitals and Workhouses within the City and County of the City of* Exon, *for the better employing and maintaining the Poor there.*



WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Ninth and Tenth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Third, intituled, An Act for erecting Hospitals and Workhouses within the City and County of the City of *Exon*, for the better employing and maintaining the Poor there, a Corporation consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen of the said City for the time being, and of Forty other Persons to be chosen out of the honestest and discreetest Inhabitants of the said City and County, as is thereby directed, and of such other charitable Persons as should be elected and constituted Guardians of the Poor of the said City and County, in the Manner therein expressed, was created and established, to continue for ever as a Body Politick and Corporate, to be called by the Name of The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor of the City and County of Exon; and to have the Care of and provide for the Maintenance of the Poor of the said City and County: And whereas Preamble.

pursuant to the said Act such Elections were made, and the said Corporation hath continued to take care of the said Poor ever since the making the said Act: And whereas the said Corporation were impowered by the said Act, to raise, within the Space of Three Years, or such longer Time as to them should seem meet, the Sum of Three thousand Pounds, for the building and erecting of Hospitals, Workhouses, or Houses of Correction, for the Purposes of the said Act, but there was no Provision made for furnishing the said House; and they were also impowered, from time to time, to raise, in such Manner as is thereby directed, such Sums as should be needful for the Maintenance of the Poor in the said Hospital or Hospitals, Workhouse or Workhouses, House or Houses of Correction, or within the Care of the said Corporation, so as the same should not exceed what had been paid in the said City and County towards the Maintenance of the Poor thereof, in any One of the then Three last Years: And whereas the said Corporation, soon after passing the said Act, built and furnished a very large and commodious House for the Reception and Employment of such of the Poor as, by Age, Sickness, or otherwise, could not so conveniently be provided for without Doors; and the said House hath been ever since supported by the said Corporation; but the necessary Expence of building and furnishing thereof, greatly exceeding the said Sum of Three thousand Pounds, which was intended to be raised in pursuance and for the Purposes of the said Act, they were obliged to borrow and take up at Interest, for the finishing and furnishing the said House, and otherwise, very large Sums of Money, under their Common Seal, amounting to Two thousand Pounds, and upwards: And whereas the Rates and Duties assessed for the Relief of the Poor in the said City and County of Exon, in the Year One thousand six hundred and ninety seven, being One of the Three Years next preceding the said Act, amounted to the Sum of Two thousand nine hundred and eight Pounds, one Shilling; but although the said Corporation were thereby authorized and impowered to raise Annually the like Sum, yet the Money raised since that Time, in any One Year, hath never amounted to the Sum of Two thousand nine hundred Pounds: And whereas by reason of the Insolvency, Death, and Removal, of several Persons liable to, and charged with, the said Rates and Assessments, the same, on an Average, or one Year with another, have fallen short, and been deficient to answer the said Sum of Two thousand nine hundred Pounds, by the Sum of

Eighty two Pounds, or thereabouts; and as there is no Provision made by the said Act for making good or supplying such Deficiencies by Re-assessment, or otherwise, the said Corporation hath thereby, and by reason of their being obliged to borrow the Sum of Two thousand Pounds and upwards, as aforesaid, incurred a Debt to the Amount of Three thousand one hundred and ninety one Pounds, Twelve Shillings, and Ten Pence: And whereas some of the Creditors of the said Corporation have threatened, and some of them have actually brought Actions for the Recovery of their Debts, and by taking out Executions, will seize and possess themselves of all the Goods, Furniture, and Effects, of the said Corporation, in the said House; by reason whereof, great Numbers of Infants, poor, sick, impotent, and disorderly Persons, will be discharged from the said Hospital, to the great Danger, Annoyance, and Distress of the Inhabitants of the City and County of the City of Exon aforesaid: Therefore, for providing a proper and effectual Relief in the Premisses, May it please Your 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, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Corporation of the Poor of the City and County of Exon for the time being, and their Successors in the same Corporation, to raise and levy, within the Space of Three Years next ensuing, or within such longer Time as to the said Corporation shall seem meet and convenient, by such Quarterly or other Payments as they in their Discretion shall think fit, the Sum of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain, by the Ways and Means, and for the Purposes, herein after mentioned; so that no more be raised in any One of the said Three Years, than the Sum of One thousand three hundred Pounds, nor less than the Sum of One thousand one hundred Pounds.

Corporation impowered to raise 3,669*l.* within a certain Time.

Sum to be raised in One Year not to exceed 1,300*l.* nor be under 1,100*l.*

And for that Purpose, it is hereby also enacted, That the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Exon, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and impowered to meet on the Twenty eighth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and fifty eight, in the Guildhall of the said City, or some other convenient Place within the said City, and then and there to ascertain and certify, under their Common Seal, to the Mayor and Justices

Meeting of the Corporation to ascertain and certify to the Mayor and Justices, the Sum to be raised within the ensuing Year.

of the said City and County for the time being, what Sum or Sums of Money (Part of the said Sum of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds) shall be raised and levied within the next ensuing Year, to be applied by them towards the Discharge of the said Debt and Interest, and the Expences and Charges of passing this Act; and the said Mayor, and any Two of the Justices, together with Eight others of the said Assistants and Guardians, of which Eight, Two are to be of each Ward or Quarter, for that Purpose to be appointed and chosen by the major Part of the said Assistants and Guardians, as by the said Act is directed, or any Four of the said Justices without the Mayor, together with the said Eight Assistants and Guardians for that Purpose to be appointed and chosen as aforesaid, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required, from time to time, to cause the Sum of Money so to be ascertained and certified as aforesaid, to be raised and levied by Taration of every Inhabitant, and of all Lands, Houses, Tythes Impropriate, Appropriation of Tythes, and all Stocks and Estates in the said City and County, in equal Proportion, according to their respective Worths and Values; and in order thereunto, the said Mayor and any Two of the said Justices, together with the said Eight Assistants and Guardians, or the major Part of them, or any Four of the said Justices without the Mayor, together with the said Eight Assistants and Guardians, or the major Part of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required, indifferently to ascertain and declare what Sum and Sums of Money shall be raised and levied upon each Parish and Precinct within the said City and County respectively; and by their Warrants under their Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of the major Part of them, to authorize and require the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of each respective Parish and Precinct, to assess the same respectively; and after such Assessment made and returned, the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants, are hereby impowered to approve, confirm, or alter such Assessments, as to them shall seem just and reasonable; and after the said Assessment shall be so approved, confirmed, or altered, the said Mayor and Justices are hereby impowered and required, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to authorize the said respective Churchwardens and Overseers, to demand, gather, and receive the same; and for Nonpayment thereof (being lawfully demanded) to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Offender, rendring the Surplusage, if any, after deducting

Power given to the Mayor, Justices, and Guardians, to levy the said Sum by a general Taxation,

and to declare what Part thereof shall be raised in each Parish and Precinct, and issue their Warrants to the Churchwardens and Overseers to assess the same.

Assessment being approved and confirmed, Warrants to be issued for the levying thereof by Distress and Sale.

ducting the Expences of such Distress and Sale, to the Party so distrained; and if no Distress can be found, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mayor, and any Two of the Justices, or any Four of the said Justices, without the Mayor, to commit such Offender to Prison, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize till the same shall be paid; and after the same shall be received, to pay the same to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being of the said Corporation, to be by him and them applied in Payment of the said Debts, Interest, and Charges rateably and proportionably to each Person's Debt; and the said Churchwardens and Overseers are hereby directed and required to pay the aforesaid Assessments to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation for the time being, to be by him or them applied as aforesaid.

Money to be paid over to the Treasurer of the Corporation.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor, of the said City of Exon, shall meet on the first Tuesday after the Twenty fourth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty nine, at the Guildhall of the said City, or at some other convenient Place within the said City, and also on the first Tuesday after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty, and on the first Tuesday next after the Twenty fourth Day of June, in each successive Year or Years; and at such respective Times and Places, to certify in each of the said Years, under their Common Seal, to the Mayor and Justices of the said City and County for the time being, what Sum or Sums of Money, other Part of the said Sum of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds, shall be raised and levied within each of the said Years respectively, to be applied by them towards the Discharge of the said Debt; and such Proceedings shall be had and taken, and such Ways and Methods be pursued, for the assessing, raising, gathering, levying, demanding, and receiving, the said respective Sums, so to be certified, in the Years One thousand seven hundred and fifty nine, and One thousand seven hundred and sixty, and any successive Year, as is herein before directed and enacted, for the assessing, raising, gathering, levying, demanding, and receiving the said first Sum by the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians, to be certified to the Mayor and Justices of the said City and County for the time being, as is herein before mentioned.

Annual Meetings of the Corporation to certify in like Manner the Sums to be raised within those Years, &c.

Provided

Deficiencies arising by Nonpayment of the Assessments, to be certified yearly to the Corporation;

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Deficiency shall happen in raising the aforesaid Sum of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds, in the Manner herein before mentioned, by reason of the Nonpayment of Assessments which shall be made and confirmed, as aforesaid, pursuant to this Act, then, and so often, the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, of each respective Parish and Precinct of the said City and County, shall, within Fourteen Days after the End of each of the said Years, return under their Hands to the said Corporation, a particular and distinct Account of such Deficiencies, as for the Year next preceding have arose and happened within their respective Parishes and Precincts; and thereupon the said Corporation, and the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants or Guardians, and the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, of the said City and County for the time being, shall, and are hereby required and impowered, from time to time, to raise, levy, collect, gather, demand, and receive, of and from the said respective Parishes and Precincts, their said respective Deficiencies, by such Rates and Assessments to be made, and in such Manner, and with such Powers of recovering and receiving the same, as is herein before directed for raising, levying, collecting, gathering, demanding, and receiving the aforesaid Sum of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds; and also to pay the same, when received, to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation for the time being, in and towards the said Debt of Three thousand six hundred and sixty nine Pounds.

and to be made good by a Re-assessment.

Corporation impowered, in case of Neglect of the Mayor and Justices, &c. to issue their Warrants for making or levying the Assessments,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Mayor and Justices, and the said Eight Assistants and Guardians, for the time being, shall refuse or neglect by the Space of Twenty Days after such Certificate made, to issue their Warrants to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in the said City and County, to make such Assessments as aforesaid; or if the said Mayor and Justices, after such Assessments, by the like Space of Twenty Days, shall neglect or refuse to issue forth their Warrants, for the gathering, receiving, levying, and paying the same; that then the said Corporation by the said recited Act constituted, shall, and hereby have Power by their Warrants under their Common Seal, to authorize and require the said Churchwardens and Overseers to do the same; and if the said Churchwardens and Overseers shall refuse or neglect, by the Space of Twenty Days next after issuing forth such Warrants by the said Mayor and Justices,

or

or upon their Neglect or Refusal, by the said Corporation, to make such Assessments, or to gather, receive, levy, or pay the same, that then the said Corporation shall have Power and Authority to raise and levy by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods, restoring the Overplus (if any shall be) after the Charges of Distress and Sale deducted, to the Person so distrained, all such Sum and Sums of Money as ought to have been so assessed, gathered, received, levied, or paid, in pursuance of such Warrants, to be employed to the same Uses to which the said Sum and Sums of Money, so to be assessed, gathered, received, levied, or paid, ought to have been employed.

to levy the same by Distress and Sale.

And whereas the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants, are by the said former Act authorized and impowered, after the Assessments are made and returned by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of each respective Parish and Precinct, to approve, confirm, or alter such Assessments, as to them shall seem just and reasonable; and the Forty Persons to be, from time to time, elected out of the said Wards or Quarters of the said City, and to be Members of the said Corporation, are by the said Act directed and appointed to be chosen by the Votes of the Inhabitants of each Ward or Quarter, paying Two Pence per Week, or more, in his own Right, for and towards the Relief of the Poor of the said City and County, or of the major Part of them then present; by means whereof it is in the Power of the said Mayor, Justices, and the Eight Assistants, by altering the said Assessments, to reduce the Assessment on particular Persons assessed and returned by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, at the Rate of Two Pence or more per Week, to a lesser Sum, and by that Means to deprive such Person or Persons of his or their Right of voting on Elections for Guardians of the said Poor, without any Complaint or Application from such Person or Persons for such Abatement; be it therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, no Person or Persons shall be abated in such Assessment, by the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants, so as to reduce his or their Weekly Assessment under the Weekly Rate of Two Pence, unless such Person or Persons shall apply to the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants, for such Relief and Abatement.

None to be abated in the Assessment, so as to reduce the same under the Weekly Rate of 2d. unless upon personal Application for such Relief.

And be it further declared and enacted, That in case the Proportions of the Poor-rate, from time to time, set by the Mayor and Justices and Eight Assistants, upon all and every the respective Parishes and Precincts, as by the said recited Act is directed, shall not be fully

Deficiencies in the Poor-rates arising by Insolvency, &c. to be certified yearly to the Corporation.

assessed, levied, and paid, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof; and any Deficiencies shall arise by Means of any of the said Assessments being rated or imposed upon any Person or Persons not of Ability to pay the same, or upon any empty or void House or Land, where the same cannot be collected or levied, or by Means of any Person or Persons removing and not paying his or their Assessment, or by reason of the Deaths of Persons assessed, that then and in every such Case, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of each respective Parish and Precinct of the said City and County, shall within Forty Days after the End of every Year, return under their Hands to the said Corporation, a particular and distinct Account of such Deficiencies as have happened as aforesaid, within their respective Years, in their respective Parishes and Precincts; and that thereupon the said Corporation, and the said Mayor, Justices, and Eight Assistants or Guardians, and the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said City and County for the time being, shall, and they are hereby required and impowered, from time to time, to raise, levy, collect, demand, and receive, of and from the said respective Parishes and Precincts, their said respective Deficiencies, by such Rates and Assessments, to be made in such Manner, and with such Powers of receiving and recovering the same, as in and by the said recited Act is directed, for the raising, levying, collecting, demanding, and receiving, the said Money by the said Act directed to be raised for the Maintenance of the said Poor, and of the Workhouses and Houses of Correction within the Care of the said Corporation.

The respective Parishes where such Deficiencies shall happen to make good the same.

And whereas Persons frequently remove out of the Parishes and Precincts, without paying the Rates assessed on the Houses or Tenements in which they live, and other Persons do enter and occupy their Houses or Tenements Part of the Year, by reason whereof great Sums of Money are annually lost to such Parishes and Precincts; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Person or Persons shall come into or occupy any House, Shop, Warehouse, Building, or other Tenement, within the City and County of Exon, assessed as aforesaid, out of or from which any other Person or Persons shall be removed, or which at the Time of making such Rate was empty or unoccupied; that then every Person so 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 Person occupied the same respectively, in the same Manner, and

Persons coming into or removing from Houses taxable, to pay in Proportion to the Time they occupy such Houses.

under the like Penalty of Distress, as if such Person so removing had not removed, or such Person so coming in or occupying had been actually and originally rated or assessed in such Rate, in Respect thereof; which said Proportion, in case of Disputes, shall be ascertained by any Two or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within the said City and County of Exon.

And whereas Persons frequently remove out of Parishes and Precincts within the City and County of Exon, into other Parishes and Precincts within the same City and County, and do not pay the Rates assessed on them, by reason whereof Losses frequently happen to the said Corporation; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Person or Persons shall remove out of any Parish or Precinct within the said City and County, where he, she, or they, shall be assessed to the Poor-rates, and shall live and reside in any other Parish within the said City and County, then and in every such Case, such Person and Persons shall be liable to pay his, her, and their said Rates, assessed on him, her, or them, in such Parish and Precinct from which he, she, or they, shall so remove, in the same Manner as if he, she, or they had continued to inhabit in the same Parish or Precinct in which he, she, or they, was or were rated, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mayor and Two Justices, or for Four Justices without the Mayor, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to authorize the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the said respective Parishes and Precincts, where such Rate or Rates shall be made, to demand, gather, and receive the same; and for Non-payment thereof, being lawfully demanded, to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the said Offender, in any Parish or Precinct in the said City and County, restoring the Surplusage, after deducting the Cost and Charges of such Distress and Sale to the Party so distrained; and if no Distress can or may be found, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mayor, and any Two of the Justices, or any Four of the said Justices without the Mayor, to commit such Offender to Prison, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize till the same shall be paid, and after the same shall be received, to pay the same unto the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation for the time being.

Power given for levying Rates on Persons removing out of one Parish into another.

And whereas by the said recited Act, it is directed that the Forty Persons thereby to be elected, and to be Part of the said Corporation, should be chosen by the Votes of the Inhabitants, paying Two Pence per Week, or more,

more, in their own Right, for and towards the Relief of the Poor of the said City and County, or the major Part of them present at such Election; and that such Forty Persons should be chosen out of the honestest and discreetest Inhabitants of the said City and County, without directing that the Persons to be elected should be Payers towards the Relief of the said Poor; by Means whereof, Persons who have not paid Two Pence per Week to the said Poor, and Persons of small Fortune, have been chosen Guardians of the said Poor, and Members of the said Corporation, which has been found inconvenient: And whereas it is also directed and appointed in and by the said Act, that the Persons so to be elected should continue Guardians and Members of the said Corporation during their Lives, and there is no Power for removing them, or electing others in their Room, in Cases of Insolvency or Removal from the said City and County, which in many Instances hath been found to be highly detrimental: And whereas there is no Provision made by the said Act for the chusing any new Members in the Room of such of the said Members so elected, as by becoming Aldermen of the said City after such their Elections, are thereby taken out from the other Forty Guardians, whereby the Number of the Guardians is lessened, to the Hinderance of the Business of the said Corporation; For Remedy whereof, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, no Person shall be capable of being elected a Guardian of the Poor for the said City and County, who is not assessed and does not pay Three Pence per Week, or more, in his own Right, for and towards the Relief of the Poor of the said City and County.

Qualification of Guardians.

Aldermen to chuse other Guardians in the Room of such as shall remove, be elected Aldermen, become Bankrupt, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person or Persons who shall, at any Time or Times hereafter, be elected a Guardian or Guardians of the Poor, and a Member or Members of the said Corporation, shall, after such their respective Elections, happen to remove out of the said City and County, and inhabit or dwell in some other Place, or in case any such Guardian shall be elected One of the Aldermen of the said City, or become a Bankrupt, or be discharged as an Insolvent Debtor, or compound his Debts with his Creditors, then, and in any such Cases, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Alderman or Aldermen of the Ward or Quarter for which such Guardian or Guardians, who shall so remove, be elected Alderman or Aldermen, or become Bankrupt, or be discharged as an Insolvent Debtor or Debtors, or compound his or their Debts with his or their Creditors, was or were elected, his or their Deputy

or

or Deputies, at a Court to be held within the said Ward or Quarter for that Purpose within the Space of Six Months next after the Removal, Election, Bankruptcy, Discharge as Insolvent, or Composition of his or their Debts as aforesaid, to elect other or others in his or their Place or Places in such Manner as is directed concerning Elections to be made on the Deaths of any of the said Forty Persons by the said former Act directed to be elected; and the several and respective Alderman or Aldermen, his or their Deputy or Deputies, who are appointed by the said former Act to hold the several Meetings for the Purposes of electing and chusing Guardians of the Poor, and Members of the said Corporation, in the Room of such of them as shall happen to die, is and are hereby also required to hold and make such Courts and Elections for the said Purposes.

And whereas great Losses and Inconveniencies have frequently happened and may happen to the said Corporation, because the Charges and Expences of levying the Distresses on Nonpayment of the Poor-rates, are not directed by the said Act to be borne and paid out of the said Goods to be distrained; for want of which Power the said Corporation are liable to be put to the sole Charge of such Distress; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mayor and Two Justices, or for the said Four Justices without the Mayor, and they are hereby impowered, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to authorize the said respective Churchwardens and Overseers to levy not only the said Assessment, but also the Costs and Charges of such Distress, out of the Goods of such Offender.

Power given to levy not only the Assessments, but all Charges attending the Distress.

Provided always, If any Person or Persons shall find him, her, or themselves to be unequally tared for or by reason of any Assessment that shall be made for raising the said Sum of Three thousand Six hundred and fifty nine Pounds, or any Part thereof, or the raising the said Deficiencies herein before directed to be raised, or any Part thereof, he, she, or they may appeal to the Justices of the Peace of the said City and County at their next General Quarter Sessions after such Assessments made and demanded, who shall, and hereby have full Power and Authority to take and make a final Order therein.

Persons overrated may appeal to the Justices.

And whereas by the said recited Act it is directed, that the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being shall account to the Corporation, in such Manner as therein is mentioned; and the Treasurer or Treasurers have annually, after the Expiration of their respective Years, ac-

counted with the said Corporation for their respective Receipts and Payments; but no Provision is by the said Act made for publishing the said Accounts; and it would tend greatly to the Satisfaction of the Inhabitants and Payers within the said City and County, if they were annually informed of the Management and Conduct of the said Corporation; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, the said Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being shall, within Six Calendar Months next after the Expiration of their respective Years, come to an Account before such Persons as the said Corporation shall appoint, for the Receipts and Payments within their respective Years, and within Forty Days next after such their respective Accounts shall have been audited, passed, and allowed of, by the said Corporation as aforesaid, publish, or cause to be published, in print, a just and true Abstract of such their respective Accounts, and forthwith deliver Ten of such printed Copies to the Overseer or Overseers of each respective Parish and Precinct of the Close within the said City and County.

Treasurer to account annually before a special Committee;

and an Abstract of the Accounts to be printed, and Copies delivered to the Overseers of each Parish.

Charges of this Act to be paid out of the first Moneys raised.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Charges and Expences in procuring this Act of Parliament, shall be borne, paid, and defrayed, out of the First Monies that shall arise by virtue of this present Act.

Continuation of the former Act.

And be it further enacted, That the said former Act of Parliament, and all and every the Clauses, Powers, Articles, Matters, and Things whatsoever, therein contained, and not hereby varied, altered, or otherwise explained, shall be, and the same are hereby continued, and shall be and remain in Force, as fully and effectually, as if this Act had not been made.

Officers employed in the Execution of this Act, exempted from the Penalties of the Act 25 *Car.* II.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Officer or Officers who shall be elected, chosen, appointed, or employed, in the Execution of, or by virtue of, this Act, or any of the Powers or Authorities hereby given, shall be liable, for or by reason of such Office, or Execution, to any of the Penalties mentioned in an Act made in the Twenty fifth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, for the preventing the Dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants.

Limitation of Actions.

And, for the better preventing vexatious Suits which may be occasioned by the Execution of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall be sued for any Matter or Thing which he or they shall do in Execution of this Act, in such Case the Action or Suit shall be brought within Six Months next after the Fact committed, and not after-

wards; and the Defendant or Defendants may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence: And if a Verdict shall pass for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff shall be Nonsuit, or discontinue his Suit, the Defendant or Defendants shall have and recover his or their Treble Costs: And this Act shall be taken and allowed, in all Courts within this Kingdom, as a Publick Act; and all Judges and Justices are hereby required, as such, to take Notice thereof, without specially pleading the same: And all Mayors, Justices, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, and all other Officers and Ministers of Justice, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to the said Corporation, and to all such Officers as shall be employed by them, or any of them, in the Execution of this Act, or any of the Powers and Authorities hereby given.

General Issue.

Treble Costs.

Civil Magistrates, &c. to be aiding and assisting in the Execution of this Act.

FINIS.