Anno primo

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XIV.

An Act to extend the Provisions relating to the holding of Courts-martial, and to the Punishment of Offences committed in the *East Indies*, contained in the Act made in the Twenty seventh Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion of Officers and Soldiers in the Service of the United Company of Merchants of* England *trading to the* East Indies, *and for the Punishment of Offences committed in the* East Indies, *or at the Island of* Saint Helena, to the said Company's Settlement of *Fort Marlborough*, and to such other Principal Settlements, wherein the said Company may be hereafter impowered to hold Courts of Judicature.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament passed in the Twenty seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion of Officers and Soldiers in the Service of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*, and for the Punishment of Offences committed in the *East Indies*, or at the Island of *Saint Helena*, it was, amongst other Things, enacted, That His Majesty might grant a Commission

Preamble, reciting the Act 27 *Geo.* II.

Commiſſion or Warrant, under His Royal Sign Manual unto the Court of Directors of the ſaid United Company, who, by virtue of ſuch Commiſſion or Warrant, ſhould have Power, under the Seal of the ſaid United Company, to authorize and impower their Preſident and Council for the time being, at their Principal Settlements reſpectively, or the major Part of them, and their Governor and Council for the time being, at the ſaid Iſland of Saint Helena, or the major Part of them, from time to time, to appoint Courts-martial, and to authorize and impower the Commander in Chief of any Detachment of any of the Officers or Soldiers employed in the ſaid Company's Service, to appoint Courts-martial for the Trial of any of the Officers or Soldiers under their reſpective Commands, in which Courts-martial the Offences in the ſaid Act mentioned ſhould be tried and proceeded againſt in ſuch Manner as by the ſaid Act is directed; and it is by the ſaid Act provided and enacted, That it ſhould be lawful for His Majeſty to form, make, and eſtabliſh, Articles of War for the better Government of the ſaid United Company's Forces, and for bringing Offenders againſt the ſame to Juſtice, and for other Purpoſes in the ſaid Act mentioned: And whereas, after the paſſing of the ſaid Act, and purſuant to the Powers therein, His ſaid late Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to grant a Commiſſion or Warrant, under His Royal Sign Manual, for the Purpoſes in the ſaid Act expreſſed, and alſo to form, make, and eſtabliſh, certain Rules and Articles of War for the better Government of the Officers and Soldiers in the Service of the ſaid United Company: And whereas His preſent Majeſty hath been lately graciouſly pleaſed to grant to the ſaid Company His Royal Charter for erecting and holding, at the ſaid Company's Settlement of Fort Marlborough, near Bencoolen, on the Weſt Coaſt of the Iſland of Sumatra in the Eaſt Indies, Courts of Judicature, as well for Civil as Criminal Cauſes, and for other Purpoſes in the ſaid Charter mentioned and expreſſed: And whereas it will be greatly to the Advantage of the ſaid United Company, that their Preſidents and Council for the time being, at their ſaid Settlement of Fort Marlborough, and alſo at any other Principal Settlement the ſaid Company may hereafter be poſſeſſed of, and wherein the ſaid Company ſhall be authorized to hold Courts of Judicature as herein after-mentioned, ſhould be impowered to appoint and hold Courts-martial, under the like Powers and Authorities, and in like Manner, as the ſame may be appointed and held under the ſaid Act at the ſaid Company's other Principal Settlements

ments in the said Act mentioned; be it therefore 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 His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, may, at any Time or Times hereafter, grant a Commission or Warrant, Commissions or Warrants, under His or Their Royal Sign Manual, unto the Court of Directors of the said United Company for the time being, who, by virtue of any such Commission or Warrant, shall have Power, under the Seal of the said United Company, to authorize and impower their Governor and Council for the time being, at their said Principal Settlement of Fort Marlborough, or the major Part of them, and their Governor and Council for the time being, at every or any other Principal Settlement which the said United Company shall, at any Time or Times hereafter have, or be possessed of, within the Limits of Trade granted to the said Company, and wherein the holding of Courts of Judicature shall be authorized by any Charter or Letters Patent to be hereafter granted by His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, from time to time, to appoint Courts-martial; and to authorize and impower the Commander in Chief of any Detachment of Officers or Soldiers employed in the said Company's Service, to appoint Courts-martial for the Trial of any of the Officers or Soldiers under their respective Commands; in which Courts-martial all the Crimes and Offences mentioned and specified in the said in Part recited Act, or in the said Rules and Articles of War already made, or in any other Rules and Articles of War to be hereafter made, pursuant to the Powers given by the said recited Act, committed within the said Principal Settlement of Fort Marlborough, or the Districts thereof, or within any such other Principal Settlement as aforesaid, shall and may be tried and proceeded against; and the Sentences or Judgements passed upon such Offenders, executed in such and the like Manner, and with the like Powers and Authorities, under and subject to such and the like Restrictions and Regulations, and by the same Means, Methods, and Proceedings, Manner, and Form, as such or the like Offences committed in any of the said Company's Principal Settlements in the said Act mentioned, may or can be tried and proceeded against by virtue of the said Act and Articles of War, or either of them.

His Majesty may authorize the Court of Directors to impower the Governor and Council of their Principal Settlement at *Fort Marlborough*, or elsewhere where Courts of Judicature shall be authorized, to appoint CourtsMartial for Trial of Offences.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any of the said United Company's Presidents,

Oppreſſions, and other illegal Acts committed by the Preſidents or Council, may be enquired into and puniſhed by the Court of *King's Bench*, or Court of Commiſſioners in *England*.

or Council, at their ſaid Settlement of Fort Marlborough, or at any other Principal Settlement, wherein the ſaid Company may be hereafter impowered to hold Courts of Judicature, ſhall be guilty of oppreſſing any of His Majeſty's Subjects beyond the Seas, within their reſpective Juriſdictions or Commands, or ſhall be guilty of any other Crime or Offence contrary to the Laws of that Part of Great Britain called England, or in Force within their reſpective Juriſdictions or Commands, ſuch Oppreſſion, Crimes, and Offences, may be enquired of, heard, and determined, in His Majeſty's Court of King's Bench, within that Part of Great Britain called England, or before ſuch Commiſſioners, and in ſuch County of that Part of Great Britain called England, as ſhall be aſſigned by His Majeſty's Commiſſion, and by good and lawful Men of the ſame County; and ſuch Puniſhment ſhall be inflicted on ſuch Offenders, as are uſually inflicted for Offences of the like Nature committed in that Part of Great Britain called England.

A

FINIS.