Anno decimo

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for conſolidating the Rates to be made for the Relief of the Poor of the reſpective Pariſhes of *Saint Thomas*, *Saint Edmund*, and *Saint Martin*, in the City of *New Sarum*.

WHEREAS the City of New Sarum, in the County of Wilts, conſiſts of Three Pariſhes; that is to ſay, The Pariſh of Saint Thomas, the Pariſh of Saint Edmund, and the Pariſh of Saint Martin: And whereas the ſaid Three Pariſhes have been accuſtomed to employ and maintain all the Poor of the ſame, and to defray all Expences whatſoever, touching the ſaid Poor of all the ſaid Pariſhes, out of One common Fund: And whereas it is for the Benefit of the ſaid City, and the Trade thereof, that all the ſaid Poor ſhould be ſo employed and maintained, and ſuch Expences defrayed out of a common Fund, to be raiſed and levied in manner herein after directed: 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 Fifteenth Day of April, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy, the Poor of all the ſaid Three Pariſhes within the ſaid City of New Sarum ſhall, at all Times, for ever be employed, ſupported, and maintained, and all Expences, touching all the ſaid Poor, be paid and defrayed

Preamble.

After 15 *April*, 1770, the Poor of the 3 Pariſhes in *New Sarum*, to be employed and ſupported

frayed by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said several Parishes; that is to say, Two Churchwardens and Four Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Saint Thomas; Two Churchwardens and Four Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Saint Edmund; and Two Churchwardens and Two Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Saint Martin (to be from Time to Time appointed, as the Laws now in being direct) out of and from One common Stock and Fund, in a Work-house standing in any one of the said Three Parishes, or otherwise, as to the Churchwardens and Overseers, or the major Part of them, shall seem meet, in the same Manner, in every Respect, as if the said City was, and consisted of, but One Parish only.

out of One common Stock, &c.

whereof 30*l.* to be assessed annually in each of the Parishes of *St. Edmund* and *St. Martin*,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That within One Month next after the Commencement of this Act, and in every Year within One Month next after the Appointment of new Overseers of the Poor within the said Three respective Parishes, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parishes of Saint Edmund and Saint Martin respectively shall, and are hereby required, by fair and proportionable Assessments, to be by them respectively made, on all the Inhabitants of each of the said Parishes of Saint Edmund and Saint Martin liable to be assessed to the Relief of the Poor thereof, collect and raise the Sum of Thirty Pounds in each of the said respective Parishes of Saint Edmund and Saint Martin, towards the said common Stock and Fund, in like Manner, and with such Remedies, as Poor Rates are now collected and raised: And that all further and other Sums of Money, which shall, from Time to Time, be necessary for the Support and Maintenance of all the Poor within the said City, and for paying and defraying such Expences as aforesaid, shall be collected and raised, in Manner herein after mentioned, from the Inhabitants of the Whole of the said City, by a full and equal Rate of One Shilling in the Pound, and by an equal Number of such Rates, to be collected in all the said Three Parishes; in which Rates, all and every the Inhabitants of the said Three several Parishes shall be assessed, rateably and proportionably one with the other, by a fair and just Assessment, to be, from Time to Time, made by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of all the said respective Parishes, or the major Part of them; and shall be liable to pay the same, in like Manner, in every Respect, as if the said City was, and consisted of, but one Parish only.

and the Remainder on the whole City.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all and every the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Three Parishes, shall, within Seven Days next after they shall be appointed to their respective Offices, take a corporal Oath, or, being of the People called Quakers, a solemn Affirmation, before any Two or more Justices of the said City, who are hereby impowered and required to administer the same in the Form following; that is to say, Churchwardens and Overseers to take the following Oath.

I *A B* do swear *(or* affirm*)* that during the Continuance of my Office of of the Parish of *Saint* in the City of *New Sarum*, I will, from Time to Time, attend and join in the making of Rates or Assessments in the Three several Parishes within the said City, for the Relief of the Poor thereof, without just and reasonable Cause to the Contrary: And that in the making of all Rates or Assessments in the said Three several Parishes, and in every other Part of my Office, I will, to the best of my Knowledge and Ability, act without Favour or Partiality to any Person whatsoever.

So help me GOD.

And if any or either of the said Churchwardens and Overseers shall neglect or refuse, on Seven Days Notice from any Two or more of such Justices, to attend them for the Purpose of taking such Oath or Affirmation, or, on such Attendance, shall neglect or refuse to take the same, or shall neglect or refuse to attend and join in the making or collecting any such Rate or Assessment, without just and reasonable Cause to the Contrary; then, and in either of the said Cases, upon Proof thereof duly made before any Two or more of the said Justices, every such Churchwarden or Overseer so neglecting or refusing in either Case shall, on Conviction thereof by the Testimony of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, to be levied on his Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of Two or more Justices as aforesaid, to the Use and Benefit of the Poor of the said City, and to be consolidated with the Collections made by and upon such Rates and Assessments as aforesaid; from which Conviction no Appeal, Removal, or Certiorari shall lie to any Court or Jurisdiction whatsoever, but the same shall be final and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes; which said Conviction shall be in the Form or to the Effect following; that is to say, 10 *l.* Penalty on Refusal; to be levied by Distress. Conviction to be final.

City of *New Sarum.*

BE it remembered, That on the Day of in the Year of our Lord *A B*, One of the Churchwardens (*or* Overseers of the Poor) of the Parish of *Saint* in the said City, was convicted on the Oath *or* Oaths of in the Penalty of Ten Pounds, before us, Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said City, for (*as the Case may be*) neglecting *or* refusing, on Seven Days Notice from Two or more of the Justices of the said City, to attend them for the Purpose of taking, *or* for neglecting or refusing to take, his corporal Oath or Affirmation, required to be taken by him, as Churchwarden (*or* Overseer) of the Poor of the said Parish of *Saint* or for neglecting or refusing to attend and join in the making or collecting *a* Rate or Assessment, *or* Rates or Assessments, for Relief of the Poor of the said City, without just and reasonable Cause to the Contrary, pursuant to an Act of Parliament in that Case made and provided.

Given under our Hands and Seals, the Day and Year aforesaid.

Rates to be confirmed, and Accounts passed, &c. as heretofore.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Rates and Assessments to be made in virtue of this Act shall be confirmed, published, collected, and recovered within each respective Parish, under the Powers and Authorities now in being, and by Law established; and that all future Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, within the said Three respective Parishes, shall, from Time to Time, pass their Accounts in like Manner in every Respect as if this Act had not been made.

Appeal may be made to the Quarter-Sessions.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall find him, her, or themselves aggrieved by any Rate or Assessment made for the Relief of the Poor of the said City, in virtue and under the Direction of this Act, or shall have any material Objection to any Person or Persons, in any Part of the said City, being put in or left out of such Rate or Assessment, or to the Sum charged on any Person or Persons therein, it shall and may be lawful for such Person or Persons to make an Appeal to the Justices of the Peace within the said City, in their

next General or Quarter Sessions, or their next Adjournment of any General or Quarter Sessions next after the Publication of such Rate or Assessment; which Appeal the said Justices are hereby authorised and required to receive, hear, and determine, in the same Manner, in every Respect, and with the like Power of awarding Costs to the Party appealing or appealed against, as if the said City was but One Parish only.

And, to the End that no Difference or Disputes may hereafter happen or arise between the said Three Parishes, respecting the Settlement of any Person or Persons within the said City, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Commencement of this Act, no Person or Persons shall, on any Pretence whatsoever, be removed by Order of Justices from either of the said Three Parishes to another of them, on account of his, her, or their Settlement; but that all Persons whatsoever, having legal Settlements in either of the said Three Parishes, shall be quietly permitted to live and inhabit in whichever Parish and whatever Part of the said City they please, without any Certificate being required to be given from the Parish in which their legal Settlement may be; and that no Person or Persons, which shall at any Time be resident in either of the said Three Parishes, by virtue of a Certificate from any Parish, Town, or Place out of the said City, or any Part of his, her, or their Families, shall be capable of gaining a Settlement or Settlements in either of the said Three Parishes, by any Act whatsoever, except by the same Means as he, she, or they might, by Law, gain in the Parish to which the Certificate was originally granted.

Persons having legal Settlements in either Parish, to be permitted to inhabit which they please;

but Persons residing by virtue of Certificates, not to gain Settlement.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That (except in the Case of Certificates, as herein before enacted) neither this Act, nor any Thing herein contained, shall be construed, deemed, or taken, to alter or change the Laws now subsisting, respecting the Removal of the Poor between any Parish or Place without the said City, and any of the said Three Parishes; but the same shall continue and be in Force; any Thing herein before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Laws subsisting respecting Removal of Poor between Parishes without and within the City, to continue; except in the Case of Certificates.

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 said common Stock and Fund to be raised by virtue of this present Act.

Charges of this Act how to be paid.

Provided

Limitation of Actions.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Suit or Action shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, in every such Case, the Action shall be brought within Six Months next after the Fact committed, and not after; and the Defendant or Defendants 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 the Authority of this Act; and if it shall appear so to be done, or that such Action or Actions shall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared; or if, on any Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Double Costs, and shall have like Remedy for recovering the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit in other Cases by Law.

General Issue.

Double Costs.

Publick Act.

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

FINIS.