ANNO UNDECIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXVIII.

An Act for punishing Offences committed by Hackney Coachmen and Chairmen, within certain Districts and Places therein mentioned; and for renewing the Registry of Carts and Carriages.

WHEREAS Doubts have arisen whether Offences committed by Hackney Coachmen and Chairmen, within certain Places, which, by reason of the great Increase of Buildings, are now become the Suburbs of the Cities of London or Westminster, are cognizable under an Act, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, in regard such Places were not the actual Suburbs of either of the said Cities at the Time of passing the said Act, and that some of them are not comprised within the weekly Bills of Mortality: For Remedy whereof, 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 Preamble. Act 9° *Anne.*

After *June* 24, 1771, the Parishes of *St. Mary le Bone, St. George the Martyr, St. George, Hanover Square, Saint George Bloomsbury, &c.* with all Burying Grounds within Five Miles of *London* and *Westminster*, deemed to be within the Limits of the said Cities.

present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, all and every the new Squares, Buildings, and Streets, within the several Parishes of Saint Mary le Bone; Saint George, Hanover Square; Saint George the Martyr, Queen Square; and Saint George, Bloomsbury; within the County of Middlesex, and also all the several Burying Grounds within Five Miles of the Cities of London or Westminster, belonging to any of the Parishes within the said Cities of London or Westminster, or the Parishes herein-before mentioned, shall be deemed, construed, and adjudged, to be within the Cities of London or Westminster, or the Suburbs thereof, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act; and that the Jurisdiction and Authorities of the Commissioners for licensing Hackney Coaches and Chairs, and of Justices of the Peace, and all the Provisions, Penalties, and Forfeitures therein contained, shall extend, and be deemed, construed, and adjudged to extend, to all and every the said new Squares, Buildings, and Streets, and also to the several Burying Grounds belonging to any of the Parishes within the Cities of London or Westminster, or any of the several other Parishes herein-before particularly mentioned.

Commissioners to order Cheque Strings to every Hackney Coach; and every Coachman plying without such shall forfeit 5 *s.*

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for licensing and regulating Hackney Coaches and Chairs to order and direct the several Persons who take out Licences for using Hackney Coaches, that they do provide, for the better Accommodation of the Publick, Cheque Strings or Wires, to be placed in such convenient Part of every such Coach as to the said Commissioners shall seem most convenient; and every Hackney Coachman plying for Hire without such Cheque String or Wire, shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, the Sum of Five Shillings; to be levied and recovered in such Manner as other Penalties and Forfeitures are, by any Law now in being, relating to Hackney Coaches directed to be levied and recovered.

And whereas, in pursuance of the Directions of several former Acts for that Purpose, a very considerable Number of Carts, Cars, Drays, Fish Machines, and other Carriages have, from Time to Time, been entered with the said Commissioners; which said Entries were, by the late Fire which happened in the Hackney Coach Office, entirely consumed, and also all the Books of Entries of such Numbers were totally destroyed, by Means whereof the publick will be deprived of the Benefit intended by the said several Acts, unless some Provision be made to compel the Owners of such Carts, Cars, Drays, Fish Machines, and other Carriages, which had been entered at the said Office, and were in Use at the Time the said Fire happened, to make Entries of such Numbers as they were then possessed of, together with their Names and respective Places of Abode; be it therefore further enacted, that all and every Person or Persons who was or were possessed of any Cart, Car, Dray, Fish Machine, or other Carriages, on the Sixteenth Day of November, One thousand seven hundred and seventy, being the Day on which the said Fire happened, and which had been respectively entered with the said Commissioners, in pursuance of the said former Acts, shall, and they are hereby respectively required to make a new Entry of every such Cart, Car, Dray, Fish Machine, or other Carriage, with the said Commissioners, on or before the Twenty-ninth Day of September, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one; and for that Purpose the Owner or Owners of such Cart, Car, Dray, Fish Machine, or other Carriage, shall make out and deliver, or cause to be made out and delivered, in Writing, to the said Commissioners, at the Office for licensing Hackney Coaches, within the Time aforesaid, the true and real Number and Numbers of every such Cart, Car, Dray, Fish Machine, or other Carriage so entered as aforesaid, which was or were in Use, or which might lawfully have been used and employed on the said Sixteenth Day of November, together with the Name and Place of Abode of the Owner thereof; and thereupon the said Commissioners shall, and they are hereby authorised and required, without Fee or Reward, to make an Entry or Entries of every

All Persons possessed of Carts, Cars, Drays, &c. entered before *Nov.* 16, 1770, to make new Entries, before *Sept.* 29, 1771.

such Cart, Car, Dray, Fish Machine, or other Carriage, together with the respective Number thereof, and the Name and the Place or Places of Abode of the respective Owners thereof, in Books to be by them provided for that Purpose.

Persons neglecting to make such Entries, shall be subject to all former Penalties.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person or Persons shall neglect or refuse to make such Entry or Entries as aforesaid, with the said Commissioners, within the Time herein before limited, every such Person so neglecting or refusing to make such Entry or Entries, shall be deemed and taken to have and be possessed of no such Number or Numbers, nor to have made any Entry or Entries whatsoever, with the said Commissioners, and shall be subject and liable to all and every the Penalties and Forfeitures incurred, by all or any of the several Acts heretofore made for that Purpose, in the same Manner, and to all Intents and Purposes, as if no such Entry or Entries had been ever made; any Thing in any former Act, or Acts, to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

In all Actions commenced, Defendants may plead the General Issue.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons, for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, the Defendant or Defendants, in any such Action or Suit, 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 have been done, a Verdict shall be recorded for the Defendant or Defendants; and if the Plaintiff shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his Action, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if Judgement shall be given upon any Verdict or Demurrer against the Plaintiff, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Double Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have, in other Cases by Law, for Recovery of his or their Costs.

Double Costs.

FINIS.