ANNO UNDECIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XLIII.

An Act for eſtabliſhing a Houſe or Houſes of Induſtry in the *Iſle of Wight*, for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor belonging to the ſeveral Pariſhes, and Places, within the ſaid Iſland.

WHEREAS the Poor in the Iſle of Wight, in the County of Southampton, are very numerous, and are maintained and ſupported at a great Expence by their reſpective Pariſhes and Places: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor in the ſaid Iſland, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief and Aſſiſtance of ſuch as, by Age, Infirmities, or Diſeaſes, are rendered incapable of ſupporting themſelves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the able and induſtrious, to the Correction and Puniſhment of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Induſtry; and thereby the Poor, inſtead of being wholly ſupported by the Publick, may contribute to the Support, Aſſiſtance and Relief, mutually, of each other, and be of ſome Advantage to the Community, Preamble.

Community, to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen; 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 Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, all and every Person and Persons who shall then be, and, from Time to Time, shall thereafter become seised or possessed in his, her, or their own, or Wife's Right, of Lands or Tenements, either in Fee or for Life, or for a long Term of Years absolute, or determinable upon any Life or Lives, and rated to the Poor's Rates in the respective Parishes and Places within the Isle of Wight, at the Value of Fifty Pounds per Annum; and all Heirs Apparent of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, rated as aforesaid, at the Value of One hundred Pounds per Annum; and also all Rectors and Vicars for the Time being of the several Rectories and Vicarages within the said Isle of Wight; and also all and every Person and Persons who then, and from Time to Time thereafter, shall be rated to the Poor's Rates in One or more Parish or Parishes within the said Island, for Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or Tythes occupied and enjoyed by him, her, or them, at the Value of One hundred Pounds per Annum, shall be, and are hereby declared to be incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the Isle of Wight; and shall for ever, in Name and Fact, be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have perpetual Succession and a Common Seal, and shall be, and be called The Guardians of the Poor within the Isle of Wight, and shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued by that Name, in all Courts and Places of Judicature, within that Part of Great Britain called England; and, by that Name, shall and may purchase, take and receive, any Goods and Chattels whatsoever, to, or to the Use of the said Corporation: Provided always, That such Corporation shall not be capable of taking or holding any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, except such as are herein after particularly mentioned and intended to be hereby vested in them.

Women capable of voting (by Proxy) as Guardians.

Provided always, and be it further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That all Women, who shall be seised of Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, or be rated to the Poor's Rates respectively as aforesaid,

shall be, and are hereby authorised to act as Guardians, for all the Purposes of this Act, by Proxy, appointed under their Hands; and the Persons appointing such Proxies may, from Time to Time, revoke such Appointment; and such Proxies shall be granted to such Persons as shall be Guardians; but no more than One such Proxy shall be granted to, or received by, any One Guardian whatsoever.

First Meeting of Guardians.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians, or so many of them as shall think fit, shall meet on Tuesday the Twenty-fifth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, at the Sun-Inn, in Newport, in the said Isle of Wight; and being so assembled, shall, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock on the same Day, proceed to the Execution of this Act, and by a Majority of Voices of such of them as shall be so assembled, appoint some One Guardian then present to be President or Chairman of such Meeting; and such Person, so elected President or Chairman, shall cause the rest of the said Guardians then assembled to proceed, by way of Ballot, to the Choice of Twenty-four of the Guardians, which Twenty-four Persons so chosen, shall be called Directors of the Poor, within the Isle of Wight; and the said Guardians so assembled as aforesaid, shall, by Ballot, elect and chuse One or more other proper Person or Persons to be Treasurer or Treasurers, and One other sufficient Person to be Clerk of the said Corporation of Guardians, who shall, from Time to Time, enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and likewise such other Officers as the said Guardians shall find necessary for the Execution of this Act.

Directors, and Treasurer, &c. to be chosen.

Twelve Directors to go out by Ballot yearly.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Twelve of such Directors shall go out by Ballot every Year; and that, in the Room and Stead of the Persons so going out, Twelve other Persons, qualified as aforesaid, to be Directors, shall, on the Tuesday in Easter Week in every Year, in like Manner, be chosen; who, together with the Twelve remaining Directors, shall be Directors for the Space of One Year then next ensuing.

Poor, how to be governed till the House is built.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every poor Person, and Person incapable of providing for himself or herself, within the said Isle of Wight, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of his or her Parish or Place, in the same Manner as he or she now are, until the House or Houses herein after men-

tioned shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and that from and after the General Meeting of the said Guardians, which the Directors of the Poor in the said Island are herein afterwards required to call, within Three Months next after the said House or Houses shall be built and fitted up for the Reception of the Poor, every poor Person, and Person incapable of providing for himself or herself, within the said Isle of Wight, shall be under the Government and Management of the said Guardians of the Poor; and that each and every poor Male Child, which at any Time hereafter shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government till he arrive at the Age of Eighteen Years, and each and every poor Female Child, till she shall arrive at the Age of Sixteen Years; and that after such respective Children shall have attained the said respective Ages they shall be discharged from the Rule and Government of the said Guardians, and be at their own Disposal; or the Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor herein after directed to be chosen, may, at any Quarterly Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, dismiss such Children before their respective Ages of Eighteen and Sixteen Years, in case they shall think proper so to do,

Poor Children to be managed by Guardians till a certain Age,

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor herein after directed to be chosen, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Southampton, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, at any Time before such respective Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any of such Children to be Apprentice, where they shall see convenient, till such Child shall come to the Age of Twenty-one Years, or to bind any of such Male Children to be Apprentice in the Sea Service, to any Captain, Master or Owner of any Ship or Vessel, in like Manner as the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, with the Assent of the Justices of the Peace, are by the Laws now in being impowered to do; and the Person or Persons to whom any such Child shall be bound Apprentice, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such Apprentice, in like Manner as by the Laws in being Persons are obliged to provide for Apprentices in the like Circumstances; and no Apprentice so bound as aforesaid shall (except with the Consent of the said Directors and acting Guardians, present at the Weekly Meetings herein after appointed to be had) be assigned or turned over to any other Person; and that the Person or Persons to whom any

or put out as Apprentices;

any such Apprentice shall be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for him or her in the same Manner, and under the same Penalties and Forfeitures, as the Person or Persons to whom such Apprentice was first bound, as aforesaid, was or were obliged to receive and provide for him or her.

or bound to the Governor or Steward for the Time being.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Southampton, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, at any Time before such respective Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any of such Children to be Apprentice or Apprentices to the Governor or Steward herein after directed to be appointed by virtue of this Act, for the Time being, till such Child or Children shall come to the Age or respective Ages of Twenty-one Years; and on the Death, Resignation, or Removal of such Governor or Steward, such Apprentice or Apprentices so bound to the Governor or Steward shall belong and appertain to the succeeding Governor or Steward, without any formal Assignment being made to him of such Apprentice or Apprentices, and so from Time to Time, to the Governor or Steward for the Time being, until the Expiration of the Term for which any of such Children shall have been respectively bound; and such Child or Children shall respectively serve the said Governor or Steward for the Time being, as Apprentice or Apprentices, until the End of the said Term for which he, she, or they respectively shall be bound, and shall, during the said Term, be considered as Apprentice or as Apprentices to the Governor or Steward for the Time being, to all Intents and Purposes, in the same Manner as if he, she, or they, had been originally bound to every new or succeeding Governor or Steward respectively; and such Child or Children so to be bound to the said Governor or Steward shall be provided for, and maintained by the said Guardians during such his, her, or their respective Apprenticeship, in the same Manner as other Poor Children are to be provided for and maintained by virtue of this Act; and all Profits, Benefit and Advantages arising from every such Apprentice so bound to the said Governor or Steward, shall be accounted for to the said Guardians, and shall be had, received, and taken by them, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

Poor may be let out for Work,

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians may, on Application made by any Farmer or other

Person

Person wanting a Number of the said Children, or of the said other poor Persons in Harvest, or other Work suited to the Strength and Ability of the said Children, or other poor Persons, let out such Number of the said Children, or other or Persons, as shall be required, on a Contract for their Labour and Maintenance, at such Wages as shall be agreed for between the said Directors and acting Guardians and the Person or Persons hiring such Children, or other poor Persons; which Wages shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians, and shall be by him accounted for, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

or delivered to Parents, &c.

Provided also, That if the Parents, Kindred, or Friends of Children so maintained by the said Guardians, shall either, when the said respective Children shall attain their said respective Ages of Eighteen and Sixteen Years, or at any Time before, be desirous or willing to receive, maintain, and employ such Children, and such Children shall be willing to be so received, maintained, and employed, it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, if they shall think so proper, to dismiss such Children.

Power to borrow Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors, until the said acting Guardians shall be chosen, and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, after the said acting Guardians shall be chosen, from Time to Time, to borrow any Sum or Sums of Money for the Purposes of this Act, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Twelve thousand Pounds, at an Interest not exceeding Four Pounds per Centum per Annum, and to assign over by Writing, signed by Seven of the said Directors at the least, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, all or any Part of the Poor's Rates to be collected within the said Isle of Wight, in pursuance of this Act, as a Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest of the Money so to be borrowed; and such Securities may be, from Time to Time, assigned and transferred, by Indorsement or otherwise, without Stamps; and such Assignments and Transfers shall intitle the Person to whom the same shall be made, to all Principal and Interest Monies due, and to grow due, upon such Securities.

Workhouses in the several Parishes in the Island vested in Trustees, to be sold for the Purposes of this Act.

And, in order that the Sum to be borrowed for the Purposes of this Act may be the less burthensome, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Workhouses now belonging to the several and respective Parishes in the Isle of Wight aforesaid, together with the

Lands thereunto belonging, shall be vested, and the same are hereby vested in Sir John Barrington of Swainston, in the said Isle of Wight, Baronet; Sir Richard Worsley of Appuldercombe, in the said Isle of Wight, Baronet; and Sir William Oglander of Nunwell, in the said Isle of Wight, Baronet; and their Heirs and Assigns for ever, upon Trust; that they the said Sir John Barrington, Sir Richard Worsley, and Sir William Oglander, and their Heirs, shall and do sell and convey the said several and respective Houses and Lands to such Person or Persons as shall be willing to purchase the same, and shall and do pay the Monies arising by such Sale or Sales into the Hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation, to be applied for defraying the Expences of obtaining, and other the Purposes of this Act.

Proviso. Provided always, That if any Parish or Parishes shall, in order to elude the Purposes of this Act, sell or convey their Workhouse or Workhouses, or the Lands thereunto respectively belonging, or any Part thereof; that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and acting Guardians, at their Meeting for ascertaining the Proportion each Parish is to pay towards the Maintenance of the Poor, to advance the Rates of such Parish or Parishes so selling or conveying such Houses or Lands as aforesaid, in proportion to the Value of the House or Land so sold, after the Rate of Four Pounds per Centum.

Rewards to be made to Officers. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, and they are hereby authorised and required, to allow such Rewards to such Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, from Time to Time, seem reasonable; and also to take Security by Bond, in a sufficient Penalty, with Sureties, from such Treasurer or Treasurers, or other Persons, for the due Execution of his or their Office or Offices.

Removal of Officers. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Treasurer, Clerk, or any other Officer or Officers, shall continue in his, her, or their Office or Offices only during the Pleasure of the said Directors and acting Guardians; and that it shall be lawful for the said Directors and the acting Guardians to be chosen in Manner herein-after directed, who shall be present at any General Quarterly Meeting herein-after appointed, by Ballot, to displace them, or any of them, and upon their Removal, Death, or Resignation, to chuse others in his, her, or their Stead.

His Majesty, in Right of the Crown, is intitled to the Forest of *Parkhurst* in the *Isle of Wight*;

Whereas His Majesty, in Right of his Crown, is seised of or intitled unto the Forest of Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, of very great Extent, and at present yielding little Profit, save to the several Owners and Proprietors of Freehold Estates within the said Isle, who have or claim an unlimitted Right of Common upon the said Forest: And whereas some Part of the said Forest, not far distant from the Town of Newport, in the said Isle of Wight, will be a very convenient and commodious Situation for the placing a House or Houses for the Reception of the Poor, and making the necessary Buildings and Accommodations for the Purposes of this Act, and if a small Portion of the said Forest was vested in the said Guardians of the Poor, and their Successors, to be used and employed for the erecting and providing a House or Houses, with such Buildings and Accommodations as aforesaid, the good Purposes of this Act would be greatly furthered and assisted: Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty, and he is hereby enabled to make a Grant, under the Exchequer Seal, of such Part or Portion of the said Forest of Parkhurst, as His Majesty's Governor of the Isle of Wight for the Time being, and the said Sir John Barrington, and Sir William Oglander, and James Worsley of Stenbury, in the Isle of Wight aforesaid, Esquire; Henry Roberts of Standen, in the Isle of Wight aforesaid, Esquire; and the Reverend Leonard Troughear Holmes of Westover, in the Isle of Wight aforesaid, Clerk; or the Survivors of them, or any Three or more of them, of which Number the Governor for the Time being to be One, shall, within the Space of Six Months from the passing of this Act, set out and allot for the Purposes of this Act, not exceeding Eighty Acres, such Grant to be made to the Guardians of the Poor within the Isle of Wight, incorporated by this Act, for such Time and Term of Years as His Majesty shall think proper, notwithstanding the Limitations of the Civil List Act, made in the First Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, and subject to such Rents and Reservations, and under such Clauses and Conditions, as are usually reserved and contained in like Cases; and the Land so to be granted, shall be held by the said Guardians and their Successors, in such Manner, and to and for such Uses, Intents, and Purposes, as, from Time to Time, shall seem most proper and convenient for effecting and accommodating the Purposes of this Act.

Grant of Part thereof for the Purpose of building Houses.

Lands or Buildings not subject to Taxes.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Land out of His said Majesty's For-

reſt of Parkhurſt, ſo to be veſted in the ſaid Guardians for the Purpoſes of this Act, or any of the Buildings to be thereupon made and erected, ſhall not be ſubject or liable to the Payment of any Rates, Taxes, or Levies whatſoever.

Directors may contract for the Purchaſe of Lands, &c.

And whereas a plentiful Supply of good and wholeſome Water, for the Uſe and Accommodation of the Houſe or Houſes to be erected for the Reception of the ſaid Poor, will be eſſentially neceſſary: And whereas it may happen that a plentiful Supply of good and wholeſome Water on any Part of the ſaid Foreſt, convenient for the Purpoſe of erecting ſuch Houſe or Houſes, may not be found, and that no Grant of Part of the ſaid Foreſt under the Exchequer Seal ſhall be made as aforeſaid: Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That, in either of thoſe Caſes, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Directors, and they are hereby required, as ſoon as conveniently may be, to purchaſe and contract for any Quantity of Land and Buildings within the ſaid Iſland, lying as near as may be to the Centre of the ſaid Iſland, and in ſuch Situation as to them ſhall appear moſt likely to yield a good Supply of Water, not exceeding in the Whole Eighty Acres, to be conveyed to, and held by, the ſaid Guardians, and their Succeſſors, for the Purpoſe of erecting and providing ſuch Houſe or Houſes for the Reception of the ſaid Poor, with ſuch Buildings and Accommodations as aforeſaid; which ſaid Land ſo to be purchaſed, ſhall, from and immediately after the ſame ſhall be conveyed to the ſaid Guardians and their Succeſſors, under a good and perfect Title in the Perſon or Perſons conveying the ſame, be held and enjoyed by them the ſaid Guardians, and their Succeſſors, for ever, and ſhall not be liable to, or be charged with, any greater Taxes, Rates, or Aſſeſſments, than in proportion to what ſhall uſually have been paid for the ſame, or been charged thereon, before the ſame became veſted in the ſaid Guardians as aforeſaid, and to pay for ſuch Lands and Buildings out of the Monies to be borrowed or raiſed by virtue of this Act.

To erect ſuch Houſe or Houſes.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Directors ſhall and may, and they are hereby required, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the paſſing of this Act, to build and erect, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Land ſo to be veſted in the ſaid Guardians as aforeſaid, the ſeveral Buildings following; that is to ſay, A convenient Building, or Part of a Building, to ſerve as an Hoſpital for the Reception of ſuch aged, ſick, or infirm Perſons, and young Children,

as

as are not able to work; one other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve for the Reception, Maintenance, and Employment of such poor Persons as are able to work; and one other separate Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as a House or Houses of Correction, for the Punishment and keeping to hard Labour such idle and disorderly Persons, who, being able, shall refuse to work, or otherwise misbehave themselves; and such other Buildings as the said Directors shall find necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act: Which said Buildings shall be called by the general Name of The House of Industry in the Isle of Wight; and the said Directors shall keep the Buildings so erected as aforesaid in good Repair, and from Time to Time alter or enlarge the same, in such Manner as shall be thought convenient; and that the Expence of erecting or preparing such Houses or Buildings, and keeping the same in Repair, shall be defrayed out of the Money arising and to arise by virtue of this Act.

Directors to superintend the Building;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a Committee to direct and superintend the said Buildings, until the same shall be finished: And the said Committee shall enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and shall and may, by Order under their Hands, or the Hands of any Four or more of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, order any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treasurer or Treasurers out of the Money remaining in his or their Hands for the Purposes of this Act; and such Order or Orders shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be, a Discharge to the Treasurer or Treasurers for any Money by him or them respectively paid.

and provide Furniture and Materials.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors of the Poor within the said Island shall and may, within Three Months next after such House or Houses shall be finished, provide and furnish the same with all necessary Furniture, Household Goods, and Utensils, and shall also provide a convenient Stock of Flax, Hemp, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, or other Materials, for the Employment of the Poor received into such House or Houses; and, for that Purpose only, may set up, use and occupy any Trade, Mystery, or Occupation whatsoever, in such House or Houses.

When Buildings are finished,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as the said Buildings shall be completed,

completed, and properly fitted up and furnished, for the Reception of the said poor Persons as aforesaid, there shall be, from Time to Time, elected in Manner herein-after mentioned, the Number of Thirty-six of the said Guardians, to be the acting Guardians during such Time as herein-after directed; and for that Purpose the said Directors shall call a General Meeting of all the Guardians of the Poor in the said Isle of Wight, and the Clerk for the Time being of the said Guardians shall give at least Six Weeks previous Notice of the Time and Place of such General Meeting, by causing Notices thereof in Writing to be affixed at the principal Door of the several Parish-churches in the said Island, to the Intent that the several Persons assessed to the Poor within their said several Parishes may assemble and meet at their several and respective Parish-churches, at such Day and Time as shall in such Notice be expressed, not later than Three Weeks after the Time of giving such Notice, in order to proceed to the Election of such Number of Persons, qualified as Guardians, resident in such Parish, (if so many can be there found, if not, any Person or Persons qualified as aforesaid, out of such Parish) as shall be in the Proportion of One Guardian for every Sixty Pounds which such Parish shall then be assessed to the Poor, the Names of which Guardians so elected shall, by the Churchwarden or Churchwardens of the said several and respective Parishes, be set down in Writing, and delivered or transmitted to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Time being of the said Corporation, at least Ten Days before the Day fixed for such General Meeting; at which said General Meeting the said Directors shall set down in Writing such Number of Guardians as shall, out of the Number of Thirty-six acting Guardians, to be elected as herein-after mentioned, be the just and proper Number of Guardians to be allotted as Representatives or Representative of each such Parish, in proportion to the Sum assessed upon each such Parish as aforesaid; and thereupon the said Directors and Guardians present at such General Meeting shall, beginning with the said several Parishes in an alphabetical Order, elect by Ballot, out of the whole Number of Guardians so returned by each respective Parish, such Number to be the acting Guardian or acting Guardians for such Parish as shall be so set down by the said Directors, to be the proper Proportion of such Parish, in the said Number of Thirty-six Guardians; which said Thirty-six Guardians so elected, shall

a General Meeting to be called,

to elect acting Guardians.

be and continue acting Guardians, until such new succeeding acting Guardians shall be elected in their Place and Stead, on the Tuesday in Easter Week then next following, as herein-after directed, and not longer.

A General Meeting to be held on *Tuesday* in *Easter* Week yearly for electing Guardians.

And be it further enacted, That after the said General Meeting for electing such Thirty-six acting Guardians shall be had, a like General Meeting shall be held on the Tuesday in Easter Week in every Year, for electing Thirty-six other Guardians in the Place and Stead of the acting Guardians of the preceding Year; in order to which annual Election such Number of Guardians shall be elected in Manner aforesaid, by the said several Parishes, on the First Monday in the Month of March in every Year, and be, in like Manner, transmitted by the Churchwarden or Churchwardens of the several and respective Parishes where such Election is to be made to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Time being of the said Corporation, at least Ten Days before the said General Meeting, when the said Directors and Guardians there assembled shall proceed (in such Form and Manner as before is directed to be observed at the said first General Meeting for electing the acting Guardians) to elect the Thirty-six acting Guardians for a Year then commencing, and to end the Tuesday in Easter Week in the Year following.

Proviso.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case any Parish or Parishes shall neglect or refuse to make out and return a Lists of Persons to be acting Guardians in Manner before directed, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the Directors and acting Guardians present at the said General Meeting to proceed, by way of Ballot, to the Choice of One or more Person or Persons qualified as aforesaid, either resident in or living out of such Parish or Parishes, to be the Representative or Representatives of such Parish or Parishes so neglecting or refusing to make out and return such List or Lists as aforesaid.

Small Parishes to join in returning Representatives.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if the Assessment upon any Parish within the said Island shall be so small as not to intitle such Parish to be represented by One of the said Thirty-six acting Guardians, every such Parish shall join and act with such contiguous Parish or Parishes as the Directors shall see fitting, or by the Notice or Notices to be given to such Parish or Parishes of the said first General Meeting for electing the

the said Thirty-six Guardians, shall be directed, as well in electing of the said Guardians to be returned to the said Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation, previous to the said first General Meeting, as also at every future Election of Guardians for the same Purpose, until the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being shall see cause to join the same with some other Parish or Parishes for greater Convenience, which they shall have Power to do as they shall see Occasion.

Directors and acting Guardians to make Orders.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being shall have, and they are hereby declared to have, full Power and Authority to make, from Time to Time, such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders and Constitutions, as well for the better governing the said Corporation, as for the better governing, employing, and supporting the said poor Persons in the said Island, and for the carrying on any Trade that shall be set on Foot for the Employment of the said Poor, and for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act; and from Time to Time, afterwards, to repeal, alter, or amend such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders or Constitutions, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem meet, so that such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land.

Fifteen to be present.

Provided always, That not less than Fifteen of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (Five of which Number at least to be Directors) shall be present at every Meeting, for the Purpose of making Bye-laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions; and the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians then present (of which major Part Five at the least to be Directors) shall give their Assent to such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders or Constitutions, and that no such Bye-laws, Rules, Orders or Constitutions shall be deemed valid until they have been approved and confirmed by a Judge of Assize.

Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted, That after such Directors and acting Guardians shall be chosen as aforesaid, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall hold Four General Quarterly Meetings in every Year, on the Four several Days following; (that is to say) The Tuesday in Easter Week, the Tuesday next after the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, the Tuesday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, and the Tuesday next after the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Christ; the First of which said Quarterly Meetings shall be held at the Sun

Inn in Newport aforesaid, and the subsequent Meetings at such Place as the Directors and acting Guardians present at the preceding General Quarterly Meetnig, from Time to Time, shall direct and appoint.

Vacancies in Directors to be filled up on *Tuesday* in *Easter* Week.

And be it further enacted, That the Directors present at the General Quarterly Meeting to be held on Tuesday in Easter Week in every Year, shall fill up, by Ballot, all such Vacancies as shall have happened in the Twenty-four Directors, by Death, Removal, or Refusal of acting, as well as such Vacancies as shall then happen by the going out of Directors, by Ballot, as aforesaid; and at the said General Meeting in Easter Week the Directors and acting Guardians then present shall examine and audit the Treasurer's Accounts, and shall then, by Ballot, re-elect the same Person or Persons, or any other Person or Persons, to be Treasurer or Treasurers for the following Year; and so from Year to Year, on every succeeding Tuesday in Easter Week for ever.

Vacancies in Directors or Guardians, how to be filled up.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That at any of the said General Quarterly Meetings herein before directed to be held, other than the General Meeting on the Tuesday in Easter Week, the Directors present at such Meetings shall and may fill up, by Ballot, amongst themselves, any Vacancies that may have happened in the Twenty-four Directors, either by Death, Removal, or refusing to act; and the Directors and acting Guardians present at such Meetings shall and may, out of the List of Candidates at the last preceding Election of acting Guardians, fill up, by Ballot, any Vacancies that may have happened in the Thirty-six acting Guardians, either by Death, or Removal, or refusing to act; but no such Director or acting Guardian so to be elected to fill up any Vacancy, shall continue Director or acting Guardian for any longer Time than the Person in whose Place he shall be elected might or ought to have continued by virtue of this Act.

Committees for each Quarter.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, at the said Meeting to be had on the Tuesday in Easter Week, appoint Twenty-one Directors and acting Guardians together (Five of which Number at the least to be Directors) for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, to inspect, direct, manage, and provide for the said poor People in such respective House or Houses; and for that Purpose the said Twenty-one Directors and acting Guardians, or any Five or more of them, whereof Two to be Directors, shall in the respective Quarter of the Year for which they shall be appointed as aforesaid,

Their Power.

meet at the said House or Houses to be built for the Reception of the Poor aforesaid, every Saturday Morning, or oftner, if it shall be necessary, together with the Clerk for the Time being; and such of them as shall be there present shall and may give such Directions as they shall think proper for the Employment, Maintenance, and Relief of the Poor in such House or Houses, and for carrying into Execution such Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, and such Powers and Authorities as shall be, from Time to Time, made and granted by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

Penalties on Non-attendance of Committees each Month.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That the said Twenty-one Directors and acting Guardians so to be from Time to Time appointed as aforesaid, for each and every Quarter in the Year, may, and they are hereby authorised, by Agreement amongst themselves, to subdivide themselves into Committees of Seven, to act for each Month in each Quarter, but so as not to preclude any of such Twenty-one from being present, or voting at any such weekly or other Meeting aforesaid; and if there shall not be present at any Meeting, so appointed to be held, Five Directors and acting Guardians together, (Two whereof shall be Directors) every Director who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and every Guardian, who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Director or acting Guardian, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Southampton, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight; and such Forfeiture shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock, for the Use of the Poor.

Accounts to be settled and laid before a Special Sessions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That, at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, the said Twenty-one Directors and acting Guardians for the preceding Quarter respectively shall settle their Accounts, and, from Time to Time, shall cause the same to be delivered by their Treasurer or Clerk for the Time being, or other Officer, to One of the Clerks of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Southampton, acting for the Division of the Isle of Wight; which Justices shall, and are hereby impowered, to hold a Special Sessions

sions Four Times in the Year; that is to say, One in each Quarter, on the Tuesday in the Week next ensuing each of the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, to audit the said Accounts; and the Clerk of the said Justices shall lay the same before the Justices of the Peace, at such Sessions, to be by the said Justices examined, audited, and finally passed, for which a Fee of Ten Shillings and Sixpence, and no more, shall be paid to the Clerk of the said Justices, or his Deputy; and no other Fee or Reward shall be paid to, or be had, received, or taken, by the Clerk of the said Justices, or his Deputy, or any other Person or Persons, under any Pretext whatsoever: Provided that the Justices holding such Sessions, or any, or either of them, shall not have acted in the Capacity of Director during the Time for which such Accounts are to be passed.

Fifteen Directors to be present.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at all such Four General Quarterly Meetings by this Act directed to be held, not less than Fifteen of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (Five of which Number at the least shall be Directors) shall be present; and the major Part so assembled, of which major Part Five at the least shall be Directors, shall give their Assent to every Order made at such Meeting.

Assessments.

And, for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed by virtue of this Act, and for providing for the Poor to be employed or relieved in such House or Houses, and for defraying the other Expences of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That, after the said House or Houses shall be erected and finished for the Reception of the said Poor as aforesaid, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered, at the said General Quarterly Meetings, to assess such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates herein after mentioned, upon the several Parishes and Places within the said Island, as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall judge necessary for paying the Interest due on the said Debt, and for defraying the Expences of the current Quarter, and for and towards paying off and discharging the said principal Debt; and such Assessments being delivered to the Clerk of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Southampton, acting for the Division of the Isle of Wight, at a Special Sessions to be held for that Purpose, and being allowed by the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions assembled,

(for

(for which Delivery and Allowance no Fee or Reward whatsoever shall be had, received, or taken, by any Person or Persons whomsoever), the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, (whereof One to be a Director) shall be, and they are hereby impowered to issue Warrants, under the Seal of the said Corporation, to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor, in all and every of the several Parishes and Places within the said Island, requiring such Churchwardens or Overseers to pay at some particular Time and Place, to be specified in the said Warrants, the Sums so assessed upon the said several Parishes and Places respectively, to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Guardians for the Time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge to such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor; and, for raising the Sums so assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall, from Time to Time, and they are hereby required, with as much Equality and Indifference as is possible, to raise by Taration of every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, and others, and of every Occupier or Renter of any Land, House, Tythe Impropriate, and Propriations of Tythes, in their respective Parishes and Places, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such respective Parishes and Places by the said Directors and acting Guardians, in such and the like Manner as Money for the Relief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be raised, with such and the like Remedy to Persons aggrieved, by way of Appeal, as is given concerning Rates or Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor by the Laws now in being; for all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said respective Parishes and Places wherein such Sums of Money shall be so assessed or received, shall be answerable, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which in that Case is hereby directed to be made by the Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting; and such Taxes and Assessments, and also such Re-assessments, shall be levied and recovered in such and the like Manner as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is, by the Laws now in being, to be levied and recovered.

Provided always, That the Sums to be assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at their General

Not to exceed One Year's Rate upon a Medium from *Easter*.

ral Quarterly Meetings upon any One of the said Parishes or Places, shall not exceed in any One Year the Sum which shall have been rated or assessed for the Relief of the Poor in such respective Parishes or Places in One Year, upon a Medium, to be drawn from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, to Easter, One thousand seven hundred and seventy.

Principal Money borrowed to be paid off.

And, for the more regular discharging of such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be borrowed upon the Credit of this Act, and the Interest for the same, be it further enacted, That One equal Moiety or Half Part of all such Sum and Sums of Money as shall yearly, and every Year, be saved out of the Rates and Assessments to be raised and levied by virtue of this Act, and the Profits of the Work of the Poor, and shall remain in the Hands of the Treasurer of the said Corporation upon settling his annual Accounts, shall go and be applied yearly, and every year, towards the paying off and discharging such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be borrowed upon the Credit of this Act, until the Whole of such Monies shall be paid off and discharged; and that the other Moiety or Half Part of the Monies which shall be so saved as aforesaid, shall yearly, and every Year, be applied to lessen and reduce the Rates and Assessments to be made for the Relief of the Poor within the said Island below the Average or Medium Rates from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, to Easter, One thousand seven hundred and seventy, in an equal Degree, and in Proportion to the Rates which shall be levied upon the respective Parishes within the said Island.

Director or Guardian may order Relief,

And whereas it may happen that, by Casualties or sudden Illness, several poor Persons may stand in need of an immediate Relief, before Application can be made for the same at the weekly Meetings to be held in pursuance of this Act: For Remedy whereof, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful, at any Time or Times, for any Director or acting Guardian, upon Application made to him, or upon his own Knowledge of the Fact and Necessity of the Case, by Writing under his Hand, to order the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Overseer or Overseers of the Poor for any Parish, Place, or District within which any poor Person shall, from any Casualty, Accident, or sudden Illness, stand in need of an immediate Assistance and Support, forthwith to pay unto every such poor Person any reasonable Sum or Sums of Money for his or her Support,

poor, until the next weekly Meeting of the Committee of Directors and acting Guardians shall be held in pursuance of the Directions in this Act; which said Sum or Sums of Money such Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Overseer or Overseers, shall immediately pay and apply, in such Manner as such Director or acting Guardian so ordering the same shall direct, out of the Monies collected, or to be collected, by him or them for the Purposes of this Act, and shall be allowed the same in his or their Accounts; and the said Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Overseer or Overseers, upon whom any such Order or Orders shall be made by such Director or acting Guardian as aforesaid, shall attend at the next weekly Meeting of the said Committee of Directors and acting Guardians, and lay before the said Committee the State and Circumstances of the Person or Persons so ordered to be relieved, when the said Committee shall give such further Directions for the Maintenance and Relief of such poor Person or Persons as to them shall seem expedient. till the next weekly Meeting.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for Two or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County of Southampton, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to order the Directors and acting Guardians to grant such Relief as to them shall seem meet, to any industrious poor Persons, who shall have Occasion to apply for the same. Two Justices may order temporary Relief.

Provided always, That no such Order for the Relief of any poor Person or Persons within the said Island, shall be made by any such Two or more Justices as aforesaid, until such poor Person or Persons shall have applied, or caused Application to be made for such Relief, at some Weekly Meeting of the Committee of Directors and acting Guardians, to be held in pursuance of this Act, and such Relief shall at such Weekly Meeting have been refused, and the Person or Persons so applying for the same shall have been denied Admittance into the said Houses. Proviso.

And be it enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them, or some Person for them, for each respective Parish or Place within the said Island, shall, and they are hereby required, upon Notice in Writing, signed by Three of the said Guardians, being delivered to them respectively, or left at their respective Places of Abode, at least Two Days Churchwardens, &c. to attend at first Meeting,

before the First Meeting of the said Guardians, to attend the said First Meeting, with the Books in which the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor for Seven Years, from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, to Easter, One thousand seven hundred and seventy, have been entered, and where no such Books shall be kept, with the original Rates for the Maintenance of the Poor; and shall leave in the Custody of the President or Chairman, who shall be chosen at such Meeting, such Books and Rates, together with an Account of all such other Sums of Money not included in the said Rates, as shall have been expended within the said Seven Years by such Churchwardens or Overseers respectively, for the Relief of the Poor in any such Parish or Place; and such President or Chairman shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the Directors, who shall be then also elected, to the End that they may examine the same, and fix and ascertain the Proportions to be observed in assessing the said respective Parishes and Places, at the said General Quarterly Meetings; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the said Churchwardens and Overseers, whenever they or any of them respectively shall demand the same, after the Expiration of Thirty Days from the Delivery thereof to such President or Chairman: And in case all or any of such Accounts or original Rates for any Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, shall not be produced at such First Meeting of the said Guardians, such Directors may, notwithstanding, assess such Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, at their Discretion, but as equally as they can, in like Proportion with other Parishes and Places; Regard being had to the Value of such Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, and to the Number of the Poor usually maintained therein.

and deliver Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the President.

Parishes to be assessed at Discretion, if no Account or Rates delivered.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Constables, or other Parish Officers, for the Time being, of all and every the Parishes, Divisions, and Precincts, within the said Island, shall, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, aid and assist the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, to the best of their Power; and shall at all Times obey their Warrants and reasonable Orders, relative to the Execution of this Act: And in case any Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, or Constable or other Officer, shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so assessed upon his respective Parish or Place, or to pay at the Time and Place appointed,

Churchwardens, &c. to assist and obey the Orders of Guardians.

Penalty on Neglect.

ed, the Money so collected and levied, or to obey any such Warrants or Orders, every such Churchwarden, Overseer, Constable, or Officer so neglecting or refusing, shall be summoned by Writing, under the Hands of any Three Directors or acting Guardians, to appear at the next General Quarterly Meeting of the said Directors and acting Guardians, to be holden as aforesaid; and if such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such General Quarterly Meeting, or if appearing, he or any of them shall not sufficiently excuse or justify him or themselves, but shall, in the Judgement of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such General Quarterly Meeting, be adjudged guilty of disobeying such Warrant or Warrants, Order or Orders; that then, and in every such Case, all and every Person and Persons so adjudged guilty as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Southampton, acting for the Division of the Isle of Wight; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor: But if any such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer so offending and convicted as aforesaid, shall think himself aggrieved, that then it shall and may be lawful for such respective Officer to appeal to the next General Quarter-sessions to be holden for the said County, at Winchester, against the Judgement of the said General Quarterly Meeting; and the Justices of the Peace for the said County, at the said Sessions assembled, shall and may hear and determine such Appeal, and may mitigate or set aside such Penalties, in such Manner, and award such reasonable Costs as they shall think proper, and the Judgement of such Justices at such Quarter-sessions, shall be final without any other Appeal.

Churchwardens, &c. if aggrieved, may appeal.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall neglect or refuse to hold any such Quarterly or Annual Meeting or Meetings, every Director and acting Guardian failing in his Duty therein, shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such

Penalty if no Meeting held.

such Director or acting Guardian, by Order of the next Sessions, to be holden in pursuance of this Act, for auditing the Directors and Guardians Accounts, unless a sufficient Reason shall be given on the Behalf of such Director or acting Guardian, to be allowed by such Sessions; and if there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Directors and acting Guardians at any of such Quarterly or Annual Meetings, such necessary Rate shall be ordered to be made by any Two Justices of the Peace of the said County acting in and for the Division of the said Island; and in case no such Order is made within One Month from the Time when such Quarterly Meeting should have been held, the same Proportion shall be rated, assessed, and raised, in such respective Parishes and Places, by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing Quarter, as was raised in the preceding Quarter, and shall be paid to the said Treasurer in such Manner as is herein before mentioned, with respect to the taxing, assessing, collecting, recovering, and paying of the Sums assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

Guardians to grant Certificates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That after the Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians, at the Time appointed by this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor, at any of their General Quarterly Meetings assembled as aforesaid, to grant Certificates, under the Common Seal of the Corporation, to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish or Place within the said Isle of Wight, and who shall be willing to remove, or shall have removed out of the said Island; which respective Certificates, under the Common Seal of the said Guardians, and attested by their Clerk for the Time being, and signed by Two Justices of the Peace, as Certificates are now by Law directed to be, shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes, and no other Certificates whatsoever to be granted within the said Island shall be valid or of any Effect; any Law, Statute, or Custom, to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Certificates to be delivered to the Clerk.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That as soon as the said Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians as aforesaid, all Certificates which have been delivered to, and remain in the Custody of the respective parochial Officers, by Persons

sons residing within the said Island, shall be delivered forthwith; and all Certificates which hereafter shall be delivered to the respective parochial Officers, by Persons coming to reside, or residing within the said Island, shall be, from Time to Time, delivered within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof, by such Officer, to the Clerk to the said Guardians for the Time being, who shall Cause the same to be filed, so that Reference may be had thereto at any future Time.

Parishes to maintain the Poor not producing Certificates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Overseers of any Parish within the said Island shall suffer any Person having a Wife, Child, or Children, whose legal Settlement shall not be in any Parish within the said Island, to inhabit within their Parish for the Space of Thirty Days without producing such Certificate as aforesaid, and such Person, or his Wife or Family shall become chargeable; that then the Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, being convicted thereof upon the Complaint of any Two or more of the said Guardians, before any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Southampton, acting for the Division of the said Isle of Wight, and Proof being made by the Oath of One credible Witness, that such Person was resident in such Parish, with their Privity, shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, nor less than Forty Shillings, at the Discretion of such Justice; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Overseers of the Poor, or any or either of them, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the said Justice; and the Forfeiture so levied shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and be added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the said Corporation; and that all Charges and Expences whatsoever, incident to, or attending the Removal of any poor Persons, to or from the said Island, shall be paid by the Treasurer of the said Corporation out of the Common Fund.

Bond relating to Bastard Children to be delivered to Guardians.

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds already given to Parochial Officers within the said Island, by private Persons, to indemnify the Parishes from any Charge that may arise from particular Bastard Children, shall be delivered likewise by such respective Officers to the said Guardians of the Poor; and it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians to sue on such Bonds in their Corporate Name, and they shall recover the Penalties thereof, as if such Bond had been originally made to them: And all Bonds hereafter to be given for

Guardians to sue in their own Name.

the same or any the like Purposes as aforesaid, shall be made to the said Guardians of the Poor; any Law, Statute or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Voluntary Contributions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all voluntary Contributions which well disposed and charitable Persons shall think proper to make, towards the carrying on the good Purposes hereby intended, shall be paid to and received by the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and be applied and disposed of in such Manner for the Maintenance, Clothing, Employment, Accommodation, and Benefit of the Poor in such House or Houses as the Contributor and Contributors shall direct and appoint; and if no particular Direction or Appointment shall be given or made touching the Application of such Contributions, the same shall be made Part of the Common Stock, and applied for the general Purposes of this Act; and a List of the Names of such Contributors, and an Account of the Sums by them contributed, shall be affixed in the most conspicious Part of the said House or Houses.

Appointment of Steward or Governor,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from Time to Time, to appoint One or more Governors or Stewards to oversee and inspect the Persons so maintained in such House or Houses, who shall be a Member or Members of the Church of England, well recommended for Sobriety, Honesty, and Diligence, and who shall be capable of reading, writing, and casting Accounts; and also any Woman or Women, who shall be maintained by the said Guardians, or any other Woman or Women, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem most expedient, as a Matron or Matrons to attend and superintend the Poor in such House or Houses, under the Direction of such Governors or Stewards of the Poor in such House or Houses; and such Governors or Stewards shall have the Care and Management of the Poor maintained in such House or Houses, and shall, from Time to Time, make Reports of the Behaviour of such poor Persons who shall be there maintained.

Matrons,

and a Clergyman.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall and may, from Time to Time, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of England to instruct such Persons as shall be maintained in such House or Houses in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechism, which the Gover-

nors or Stewards shall once at least in every Week hear such Children repeat; and also to visit the Sick, Baptize the Children, bury the Dead, and perform other Offices of his Profession in such House or Houses: And the said Directors and acting Guardians at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered to make such Allowance to such Clergyman and Governors or Stewards, and Matron or Matrons, for their Pains and Trouble therein; and may, from Time to Time, displace or discharge him, her, or them, or any of them, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any such Meeting assembled, shall appear reasonable; and shall and may pay such Allowances out of the Money to be raised by virtue of this Act. Allowance to them.

And be it further enacted, That if any poor Person maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses, shall be guilty of profane cursing or swearing, or of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour; or shall neglect or refuse to perform the Work or Services which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, such Work or Service being suited to his or their Age, Strength, and Ability; every such Offender shall and may be punished by moderate Correction or Distinction of Diet; such Punishment to be inflicted by Order of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians present at any Weekly Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act. Poor misbehaving, to be punished by Directors and acting Guardians;

Provided nevertheless, That if the Governor or Governors shall make Complaint to any Justice of the Peace for the County of Southampton, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, against any idle or disorderly Person or Persons, maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses, guilty of any Offence, that then it shall be lawful for such Justice to commit the Offender to the House of Correction for the said County, at Newport in the Isle of Wight, for any Time not exceeding One Month, or direct corporal Punishment only, or both corporal Punishment and Commitment, as such Justice shall, according to the Nature of the Offence, think proper. or, upon Application, by a Justice of Peace.

And be it further enacted and declared, That the Apparel with which any of the Poor (who shall be maintained by the said Guardians) shall be cloathed, at the Expence of the said Guardians, shall be, remain, and continue, and be deemed and taken to be the Property of the said Corporation; and in case any Person or Persons maintained by the said Guardians shall purloin, sell, or pawn, any of the Materials or Implements of Work intrusted to him, Penalty on purloining or making away with Implements of Work or Apparel.

him, her, or them, and belonging to the said Corporation, or shall sell or pawn any of the Apparel with which he, she, or they shall be cloathed at the Expence of the said Corporation; or in case any Person or Persons shall run away or depart from such House or Houses with the Cloaths or Apparel provided by or belonging to the said Corporation, without the Leave of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians present at a weekly Meeting, to be he ldin pursuance of this Act; upon Complaint being made thereof before any Justice of the Peace for the said County, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, by any of the said Guardians, or by the said Governors or Stewards, or any of them, such Justice of the Peace is hereby required to issue a Warrant for the apprehending any such Offender; and, for his or her First Offence, to order the Person so apprehended, being convicted thereof before such Justice of the Peace, on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, or on his or her own Confession, to be sent to the House of Correction at Newport aforesaid, there to remain and be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding One Month; and for the Second Offence to be sent to the said House of Correction for any Time not exceeding One Month, and then to be publickly whipped; and for the Third Offence every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of Felony, and being legally convicted thereof, shall suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws now in being.

Gratuities to be allowed to the Industrious;

And, to the End that all the poor People in the said House may be encouraged to apply themselves to such Tasks in which they shall be employed, with Diligence and Humility, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That, out of the Profits arising to the said Corporation, from the Work which shall be done by such poor People, such Rewards shall be distributed to the Industrious and Skilful in proportion to the Quantity and Perfection of their Work, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians, assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting, shall appear reasonable, so as no Part of the Money paid in such Gratuities be expended in the Purchase of unwholesome or unnecessary Liquors, the drinking of which the Governors or Stewards, and Matron or Matrons, are hereby strictly enjoined to prohibit and prevent.

and to the Governor and Matrons.

And, for inciting the Governors or Stewards, and Matron or Matrons of such House or Houses, to discharge the Duty of their Offices with Humanity, Diligence,

gence, and Fidelity, be it enacted, That, over and above such Salaries as shall be assigned to them, by the Order of the said Directors and acting Guardians, they, and each of them, shall receive out of the Profits of Work so done by the said poor People, such Proportion thereof as by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall be judged proper, so as such Gratuity shall not exceed Two-pence in the Pound of the Value of the said Profits.

Application of the Profits of the Poor's Work.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Profits of the Work so done by the said poor People in the said House or Houses, deducting thereout such Allowances and Gratuities as are herein before limited, shall be applied in Aid of the said Rates and Assessments towards the Maintenance of the Poor within the said Island.

Directors and Guardians may contract for employing the Poor.

Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from Time to Time, to contract, if they shall think it expedient so to do, with any Person or Persons for employing all or any of the poor People in the said House or Houses, upon such Terms and Conditions as the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper, such Contractor or Contractors being subject to such Rules and Regulations as are herein before prescribed for the Ease and Benefit of the said poor People, and to receive the Profits of their Labour, deducting thereout the Gratuities payable to such poor People, and the Governors or Stewards, and Matron or Matrons, in Manner aforesaid, in part or in full of Payment and Satisfaction for the Service to be performed by virtue of such Contract, so as no such Contract shall subsist, or be in Force for a longer Space than One Year.

Penalty on Officers purloining Goods.

An be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Governor or Steward, or other Officer appointed, or Matron or other Person whatsoever employed by the said Guardians, shall purloin, embezzle, or wilfully misapply any of the Monies, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattels, belonging to the said Corporation, every such Offender shall not only be discharged from his Office, but shall also forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, and also Treble the Value of such Money, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, and Chattels, which shall be so purloined, embezzled; or misapplied, to be levied in such Manner as the Penalties and Forfeitures by this

Act imposed upon Overseers of the Poor are directed to be levied, and to be applied to the Use of the Poor in the said House or Houses; and in case sufficient Distress shall not be found, then, and in every such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any One Justice of the Peace for the said County, to commit such Offender to the Common Gaol for the said County, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Space not exceeding Six Months, nor less than One Month.

Guardians may apprehend idle Persons refusing to work, and deal with them as Vagabonds.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any of the said Guardians to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, all Persons being in any Parish or Place within the said Island, who not having wherewith to maintain themselves, live idle without Employment, and refuse to work for the usual and common Wages given to other Labourers in the like Work in the Parishes or Places where they then are, and to convey, or cause to be conveyed, to some Justice of the Peace for the said County, acting in and for the Division of the Isle of Wight, the Person or Persons so apprehended; and such Person or Persons so apprehended shall be deemed Vagabonds, and shall be dealt with according to the Laws which shall be then in Force concerning Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons.

Justices to proceed upon Complaint of Directors or acting Guardians, or Governors.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace is or are impowered, by the Laws now in being, to proceed on the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish or Parishes, or of any of them, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice or Justices of the Peace, and he and they are hereby required to proceed on the Complaint of any of the said Directors or acting Guardians, Governors, or Stewards for the Time being, in such and the like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Complaint had been made by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or any of them.

Governors to be Peace Officers.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That for the better and more easy Execution of the Powers and Authorities in this Act contained, the Governors or Stewards for the Time being shall be Peace Officers in Right of such Office; and that all Warrants issued by any Justice or Justices of the Peace, in pursuance of this Act, or any ways respecting the Government and Management of the Poor within the said Island, shall and may be directed by such Justice

or

or Justices of the Peace, either to the Governors or Stewards for the Time being, or to the Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Peace Officers, of the Parish or Place where the same are respectively to be executed; and such Governors or Stewards are hereby authorised and required to execute such Warrants so directed to them accordingly; and all Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to such Governors or Stewards, in the Execution of such Warrants, in the same Manner as if such Warrants had been executed by a Constable or other Peace Officer.

Forfeitures given to the Poor, to be paid to the Treasurer.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Fines and Forfeitures arising from any Offences committed within the said Island, where the Whole, or any Part thereof, is given to the Poor of any Parish, or for any Offences against this Act, shall be paid to the Treasurer or Treasurers to the said Guardians, to the Use of the Poor of such House or Houses.

Expences of the Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted, That the Charges and Expences of procuring this Act of Parliament, shall be paid out of the First Monies to be raised or borrowed by virtue of this Act.

Guardians to defray their own Expences.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, shall, at their First and every other subsequent Meeting, defray their own Charges and Expences.

That no Person shall act as a Director or Guardian, concerned in any Contract.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Director or Guardian, under the Authority of this Act, during the Time he shall be concerned in, or have any Contract for the Performance of any Work, or supplying any Necessaries for carrying this Act into Execution, or the supporting of the said Poor.

Questions, how to be determined.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said First, and all and every subsequent Meeting of the said Guardians, or any Committee of the said Guardians, or any of them, and all Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians, all Questions which shall not be directed by this Act to be determined by Ballot, or agreed to be so determined by such Guardians and Directors, shall be determined by the Majority of the Persons present; and, in case of an Equality of Votes, the Chairman of such respective Meeting or Committee shall have the casting Vote.

Directors and Guardians to give in Accounts of their Qualifications.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all and every the Directors and Guardians appointed, or to be appointed, by virtue of this Act, shall, at the First Meeting.

Meeting at which he or she shall act, deliver in, or cause to be delivered in, in Writing under his or her Hand, an Account of his or her Qualification, and in what Parish or Parishes, Place or Places the same is or are situate.

No strong Liquors to be brought into the Houses.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors, into any House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act, such Person or Persons shall be, and he, she, and they, are hereby declared to be subjected to such and the like Pains and Penalties as are by an Act of the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, directed to be inflicted on Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into Prisons or Gaols.

A General Meeting to be called at the Request of Five or more Guardians, possessed of 500*l. per Annum* each.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if at any Time or Times hereafter, Five or more of the said Guardians, who shall be seised, in their own Right, of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, lying in the said Island, of the yearly Value of Five hundred Pounds each, shall desire the Directors and acting Guardians, assembled at the General Quarterly Meeting next preceding the Annual Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, that at such Annual Meeting a General Meeting may be held of all the Guardians by this Act incorporated; that then, and in that Case, the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such Quarterly Meeting shall, and they are hereby authorised and required to direct Notice of the holding of such General Meeting to be inserted in the Salisbury Journal, or some other publick Paper, circulated in the Isle of Wight, for Four Weeks next preceding the said General Annual Meeting; and that if the Persons desiring such General Meeting shall make it appear to the Guardians there assembled, that there has been any Mismanagement or Abuse of the Trust reposed in the said Directors and acting Guardians, that then the Guardians then and there assembled in pursuance of such Notice, shall and may elect Directors and acting Guardians in the Room of those so abusing their Trust, in such and the same Manner, and subject to the same Rules, Orders, and Directions, as are herein before prescribed, both with Regard to the Original Election of the said Directors and acting Guardians, and to the Powers and Authorities in them vested by this Act, when so elected; any Thing herein contained to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Saving Rights of Lords of Manors, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, or any Thing therein contained, shall not

prejudise or affect the Rights of the Lord and Lords of any Manor or Manors within the said Isle of Wight, and of the Freeholders, and other Inhabitants within the said Island, in and to all Rights of Common, or other Rights or Privileges whatsoever, in, upon, or within the said Forest of Parkhurst; but that such Lord or Lords for the Time being, and all Persons claiming or to claim under, or in Trust for him or them, as Lord or Lords aforesaid; and also all Freeholders and Inhabitants within the said Island, shall, at all Times hereafter, hold and enjoy all Rights of Common, and other Rights and Privileges, other than and except such Right of Common, and other Rights and Privileges, as can or may be claimed by them, any or either of them, upon the Land to be inclosed by virtue of this Act, in as full, ample, and beneficial Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as the same could have been held or enjoyed, in case this Act had not been made.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further 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 same shall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards, and shall be laid and brought in the County of Southampton, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants, in such Action or Suit, shall and 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 Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the said 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 in any other Cases by Law: And in all Actions or Suits so commenced or prosecuted, the Inhabitants of the said Island shall be deemed and admitted to be good Evidences; any Law, Usage, or Custom to the Contrary notwithstanding.

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 be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.