ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XVIII.

An Act to repeal an Act, passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Relief of the Poor in the County of* Devon; and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, An Act for the more effectual Relief of the Poor of the County of *Devon*: And whereas it has been found by Experience, that acting under the Powers and Directions of the said Act of Parliament is attended with much greater Trouble, Burthen, and Expence, to the Parishioners and Inhabitants assessed to the Poor's Rate, within the several Parishes, Townships, and Places, in the said County, than they were put to, or than were occasioned or incurred under the Poor Laws, as they stood before the passing of the said Act; and that the continuing the said Act will not

Preamble. Act 9 *Geo.* III.

answer the good Ends and Purposes for which it was intended; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the above-mentioned Act, and the several Matters and Things therein contained, shall be, and is and are hereby repealed and made void, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

repealed.

Stewards and Managers to pass their Accounts.

And whereas it may happen, that some of the Stewards and Managers appointed under the Powers of the said recited Act, may have in their Hands some of the Monies subscribed under the Powers of the said Act, and that some Stewards and Managers may not have passed and settled their Accounts; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Stewards and Managers, nominated and appointed under any of the Powers of the said recited Act, and every of them, who shall not have passed or adjusted their Accounts, or that shall have any Money or Balance in their Hands belonging to the said Funds mentioned in the said recited Act, are hereby respectively required and directed, within Six Calendar Months next after the passing this present Act, to make out a just Account, in Writing, fairly entered in the Book directed to be provided by the said recited Act for that Purpose, and signed by each of them, of all Sums by them and each of them received and paid, together with the Balance of such Account; and also a fair Account, in Writing, of the Names of the several Subscribers to whom any Money or Balance of his, her, or their Subscriptions shall be due and owing, over and beyond what shall have been paid or applied for or towards his, her, or their Support, Maintenance, or Relief, together with the several Sums of Money so remaining to such Subscribers respectively; and likewise an Account of all other Things concerning their Office; and shall take such Books and Accounts before One or more Justice or Justices of the Division wherein every such Steward and Manager resides, at a Time and Place to be appointed by such Justice or Justices,

and verify such Accounts, upon Oath, before such Justice or Justices, who shall sign the taking the same at the Foot of the said Account, (without Fee); and the said Stewards and Managers shall, and they are hereby required, to give Ten Days previous Notice in Writing, to be left at the respective Dwelling-houses of the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of which every such Steward and Manager have been appointed to act in; and also affix a Copy of such Notice on the Church Door of the Parish to which such Overseer or Overseers respectively belong, of his and their Intention of going before such Justice or Justices, at the Time and Place by him or them appointed, for the Purpose of passing such Accounts, to the Intent that such Overseers, and also such Subscribers, within any such Parish, to whom any such Money or Balance shall remain due, and directed by this Act to be paid, may attend there also, and they are respectively required so to do; and the said Stewards and Managers shall also, at the same Time, deliver over to the said Overseers the said Books and Accounts, the same being first allowed by such Justice or Justices; and such Overseers shall carefully convey such Books and Accounts to the Parish to which such Overseers respectively belong, to be kept with the Parish Muniments and Papers; and the said Stewards and Managers shall pay over all such Sums of Money as shall then be in their Hands to such Overseers, to the Intent that the same Monies may be paid and applied as herein-after is directed: And if any such Steward or Manager shall refuse or neglect to make or yield up such Account, verified upon Oath as aforesaid, within such Time as aforesaid, or shall refuse or neglect to pay over the Balance due from him on such Account, and to deliver up the said Books and Accounts, at the same Time and Place appointed by such Justice or Justices; that then, it shall be lawful to and for any One or more Justice or Justices of the Division wherein every such Steward or Manager resides, upon Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, and Complaint made to such Justice or Justices, of such Neglect or Refusal, to commit such Steward or Stewards, Manager or Managers, to the Common Gaol or House of Cor-

and deliver up the Books, and pay their Balance to the Overseers.

rection of the said County, until he or they shall have given such Account, and until he or they shall have paid over such Money, and delivered up the said Books and Accounts.

The Balance is to be refunded to the Subscribers.

And be it further enacted, That the Justice or Justices who shall settle or allow any such Account or Accounts, are hereby authorised and required, at the Time of the settling or allowing the same, to appoint a Time and Place for the Overseer or Overseers of the Poor (of the Parish to which such Account shall belong) to pay and refund to the respective Subscribers named in such Account, his or her respective Executors or Administrators, the Balance of his, her, or their Subscription, which shall so remain due and owing to him, her, or them, over and beyond what shall have been paid or applied towards his, her, or their Support, Maintenance, or Relief, and at which Time and Place such Overseers respectively shall and are hereby required to pay the same accordingly, by and out of the Monies so to be paid to them respectively by such Steward or Stewards, Manager or Managers, in case the same shall be sufficient for that Purpose; and if such Fund shall not be sufficient for that Purpose, then such Overseer or Overseers are hereby required and directed to make good, and take out of the Poor Rates, so much Money as shall be requisite and necessary to make good and pay such Deficiency, and to pay and apply the same, together with the other Monies so to be received by such Overseer or Overseers, in Payment of the said several Subscribers, in Manner aforesaid; and which said Balances or Sums of Money so to be paid to the Subscribers as aforesaid, such Subscribers are hereby required to accept and take, in full Discharge of all Provisions made for them by the said recited Act; and if such Overseer or Overseers shall refuse or neglect to pay and satisfy the Monies which shall be so due unto the respective Subscribers, at the Time appointed by such Justice or Justices, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for any One or more Justice or Justices of the Division wherein any such Overseer or Overseers reside, upon Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, and Complaint made to such Justice or Justices of

such

such Neglect or Refusal to commit such Overseer or Overseers to the Common Goal or House of Correction of the said County, till he or they have paid and satisfied to the Subscribers, and every of them, the Monies directed to be paid to them as aforesaid.

Parishioners to be Witness.

And be it further enacted and declared, That any Parishioner or Inhabitant of any Parish, Township, or Place, in all Questions arising upon this Act, shall be deemed a competent Witness, notwithstanding his or her being a Parishioner or Inhabitant of any such Parish, Township, or Place.

All Prosecutions under the repealed Act to cease.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Informations, Suits, or Prosecutions, already commenced against any Person or Persons acting under the recited Act, shall cease and determine, and no further Proceedings be had thereupon; and that no Information, Suit, or Proceeding, shall be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons whatsoever, under or by virtue of the said recited Act, but that all such Proceedings shall be void and of no effect; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Publick Act.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be adjudged, deemed, and taken to be, a Publick Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whomsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.