ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LIII.

An Act to enable the Inhabitants of the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal-Green*, in the County of *Middlesex*, to pay Debts already contracted in finishing and furnishing their Workhouse, and on account of the Poor of the said Parish; and for their further Relief.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament, made in the Third Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled, (An Act for maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor within the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal-Green*, in the County of *Middlesex*), the Governors and Directors of the Poor were authorised and impowered to purchase, or hire by Lease, any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and to alter, repair, and furnish any Buildings that should be standing on the same, for the better receiving, employing, and maintaining the Poor of the said Parish, or to erect thereon One or more House or Houses for the like Purpose, and provide Furniture for the same; and Power

Preamble, reciting Act 3 *Geo.* III.

was given by the said Act to raise by Sale of Annuities, the Sum of Two thousand Pounds, to pay and satisfy the Purchase-money, and other necessary Charges relating thereto, as also all Money which should be due to the Artificers, Workmen, and others, employed in or about the Premises, or in finishing the said House or Houses, or other Matters or Things relating thereto; which Annuities were by the said Act charged upon, and payable out of, the Poor's Rates: And whereas, in pursuance of the said Act, a Workhouse has been built and furnished in a proper Manner for the Purpose of receiving, employing, and maintaining the Poor of the said Parish; but the said Sum of Two thousand Pounds not being sufficient for those Purposes, some of the Parishioners advanced the further Sum of One thousand Pounds, which was necessarily expended in finishing and furnishing the said Workhouse, and now remains due, with an Arrear of Interest: And whereas the Money raised for and towards the necessary Relief of the Poor within the said Parish has not, for some Years past, been sufficient to answer and defray the Charges and Expences which the Inhabitants have been at in maintaining and providing for the said Poor, although the Rates have frequently been extended so high as to Four Shillings and Sixpence in the Pound; yet, by reason of the great Increase in the Number of People claiming Relief, and of the very high Price of Provisions, they have incurred Debts from Time to Time on account of the Poor, including the Money so advanced on account of the Workhouse, amounting to the Sum of Four thousand Pounds, or thereabouts, for which some of the Governors and Directors were under a Necessity of giving their personal Securities, in order to prevent a Distress falling upon the Poor, which must otherwise inevitably have happened: And whereas great Numbers of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, consisting of Journeymen Weavers, and other handicraft Businesses, are very frequently out of Employ, and themselves and numerous Families become a heavy Charge on the Parish, it is likely that the Expence

without providing for the Poor will still increase, and render it impossible for the Parishioners to discharge the above-mentioned Debts, and support their Poor, out of their Poor's Rates: And whereas a Sum sufficient for the Purposes aforesaid cannot be raised without the Aid of Parliament; wherefore, to the Intent that the Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish may be enabled to pay and satisfy such Debts, and raise a further Sum to answer the current Expences of the Poor, in Hopes of avoiding the incurring of fresh Debts on their Account, and that the same may be effected in a Manner the least burthensome to the said Parish; may it please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons to contribute, advance, and pay into the Hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers appointed by virtue of the said recited Act for the Receipt of the Monies to be collected, raised, or received, for the Purposes of the said Act, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Four thousand Pounds, over and above the said Sum of Two thousand Pounds allowed to be raised by Annuities by the said former Act, for the absolute Purchase of One or more Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the full Term of the natural Life of every such Contributor respectively, or the natural Life of such other Person as shall be nominated by or on the Behalf of such respective Contributor at the Time of Payment of his or her respective Contribution-money; which Annuity or Annuities shall not exceed the Rate of Six Pounds per Centum per Annum to any Person not being more than Forty-five Years of Age; nor Eight Pounds per Annum to any Person being above the Age of Forty-five, and not more than Sixty Years; nor Nine Pounds per Annum to any Person being above the Age of Sixty Years, and not more than Seventy Years; nor Ten Pounds per Annum to

Power given to raise a further Sum by granting Annuities.

any Person being above the Age of Seventy Years, for every One hundred Pounds, and so in Proportion for a greater or less Sum; All which Annuities shall be publickly sold by the Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish, and shall be payable and paid in such Manner, and on such Days, and the Contributors upon the Credit of this Act, or their Assigns, shall be entitled thereto for Life, and have such Estates and Interest therein, and hold and enjoy the same so free from Land-tax, and have such Receipts for their Purchase-money, and such Order on Parchment or Vellum, without Stamp, for Payment of the said Annuities, and the said Annuities shall be so assignable, and Entries of such Assignments, and of other the Matters in the said former Act in that Behalf mentioned, shall be so made in such Books, and with such Liberty to inspect the same, as in the said former Act are particularly mentioned and expressed, with respect to the Annuities to be purchased under the said former Act; and that the several Articles, Rules, Clauses, and Provisions in the said former Act mentioned and contained with respect to Annuities, and not otherwise altered by this Act, shall, and are hereby declared to be in Force, and extend to the Annuities authorised to be purchased under or in pursuance of this Act, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as could have been, in case so much of the said former Act had been repeated or re-enacted in this Act.

The Provisions of the former Act for borrowing Money to extend to this Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Annuities so to be purchased under or by virtue of this Act, shall be, and are hereby charged upon, and shall be paid and payable, from Time to Time, out of the Monies arising by the Rate or Rates made by virtue of the said former Act, for the Relief and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish.

These Annuities charged upon the Poor's Rate.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when so many Annuitants or Nominees under this Act shall die as shall reduce the said Sum of Four thousand Pounds, hereby authorised to be raised, to the Sum of Three thousand Pounds, or under, it shall and may be lawful for the said Governors and Directors, or any Nine or more of them, at a Meeting assembled for that Purpose,

When the said Sum of 4000 *l.* shall be reduced to less than 3000 *l.* other Annuities to be sold.

pose, of which Meeting Notice shall be given, expressing the Intention and Purpose of the said Meeting, in the Church of the said Parish, after Morning Prayer, on Two Sundays immediately preceding such Meeting, and also by affixing the same upon the Front Door of the said Parish Church, if the said Governors and Directors, or any Nine or more of them, so assembled, shall determine it to be expedient, and for the Benefit of the said Parish, to permit any Person or Persons to purchase of them, the said Governors and Directors, One or more Annuity or Annuities, in the Room of such Annuitant or Annuitants, or Nominee or Nominees so dying, upon the Life of such Person or Persons, upon such Terms and Conditions, and payable in such Manner, as above-mentioned.

Provided always, That when and so soon as the Sum or Sums of Money so to be raised and borrowed on such additional Annuity or Annuities shall amount to the further Sum of One thousand Pounds, then all Powers of borrowing any further Sum upon any Annuity or Annuities under the Authority of this Act shall cease and determine to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever. Proviso.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Money to be raised by Sale of Annuities in pursuance of this Act, shall, as the same shall come in and be received, be duly and applied for the Purposes following; that is to say, In the First Place, for paying and defraying the Charges and Expences in and about applying for, procuring, and passing this Act; and, in the next Place, in paying and discharging the said Sum of Four thousand Pounds, and the Interest due thereon, or so much thereof as the Remainder, after such Payment as aforesaid, will pay and discharge; and whatever Deficiency there may be in the Money borrowed to answer the said Expences, Debts, and Interests, the same shall immediately be paid out of the said Poor's Rate; and when and as often as the said Expences, Debts, and Interest thereon, shall be paid and fully discharged, no Interest, Gratuity, or Premium, shall thereafter be allowed, paid, or given, or be recoverable at Law, for or upon account of any Monies, Bills, or Debts due, or contracted, or to be contracted, on account of the Poor of the said Parish, except such Interest Application of the Money.

on Money as shall from Time to Time be due to Annuitants under the said former Act, or this Act.

Future Qualifications of Vestrymen.

And whereas by the said recited Act it is also enacted, That the Rector of the said Parish Church, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, and all other Persons who shall have served or fined for the Office of Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish, being Inhabitants, and who shall rent a Messuage, Lands, or Tenement, of Ten Pounds a Year, or upwards, in the same Parish, and all other Persons, being Inhabitants of the said Parish, and who shall rent a Messuage or Tenement of Fifteen Pounds a Year, or upwards, in the same Parish, and none others, shall be Vestrymen of the said Parish for the Time being: And whereas it will be expedient, for the more effectual Execution of the said recited Act, and of this present Act, that the Vestry should be constituted under other Qualifications; therefore, be it enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, so much of the last-mentioned Act as is above recited shall be, and is hereby repealed; and that from and after the passing of this Act, the Rector of the said Parish Church, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, and all and every other Person and Persons, (resident or not resident within the said Parish), who are or shall be seised or possessed of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the yearly Value of Eighty Pounds or upwards per Annum, within the said Parish; and all and every Person and Persons who shall have served or fined for the Office of Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish, being Inhabitants, and who shall rent a Messuage, Land, or Tenement, of Ten Pounds a Year, or upwards, in the same Parish, and all other Persons, being Inhabitants of the said Parish, and who shall rent a Messuage, Lands, or Tenements, of Fifteen Pounds a Year, or upwards, in the same Parish; and none others, shall be Vestrymen of the said Parish for the Time being.

Future Qualifications of Governors, &c.

And whereas by the said recited Act it is also enacted, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish of Saint Matthew Bethnal-

Green, shall assemble and meet in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, annually, on Tuesday in Easter Week, or within the Space of Twenty Days after; and they, or the major Part of such of them as shall be so assembled and met, shall then and there nominate and appoint Twenty substantial and discreet Persons, being Vestrymen, and residing within the said Parish, who, together with the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, shall be, and be called, Governors and Directors of the Poor of the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal-Green*: And whereas it will be expedient, for the more effectual Execution of the said recited Act, and of this present Act, that the several Persons herein-after mentioned shall be, and be called, Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish; therefore, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, so much of the last-mentioned Act as is above recited shall be, and is hereby repealed; and that, from and after the passing of this Act, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, shall assemble and meet in the Vestry-room of the said Parish, annually, on Tuesday in Easter Week, or within the Space of Twenty Days after, and they, or the major Part of them, so assembled, shall then and there nominate and appoint Twenty substantial and discreet Persons, being Vestrymen, and residing within the said Parish, who, together with the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, and all and every Person and Persons, (resident or not resident within the said Parish), who are or shall be seised or possessed of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the yearly Value of Eighty Pounds per Annum, or upwards, within the said Parish, shall be, and be called, Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal-Green*.

Provided always, That no Victualler, or other Person who shall sell spirituous Liquors by Retail, shall be capable of acting as a Governor or Director of the Poor of the said Parish. Proviso.

And whereas the Power granted by the said former Act, for Payment of the Poor's Rate on divided Houses, has not For enforcing the Payment of Rates on divided Houses.

not been adequate for the Purpose intended; therefore, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That, in Default of Payment of the Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, or such Houses so divided, or let out to Lodgers, the same shall be and remain a Charge upon the Premises, in respect whereof the same shall be so rated or assessed, and shall or may be recovered of and from such Owner or Owners, Person or Persons respectively, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, or in the Court of Requests for the Tower Hamlets, within the County of Middlesex, to be commenced and prosecuted by the Collector or Collectors of the Poor's Rates, in the Name of the Vestry-clerk for the Time being; in which Action or Suit no Protection, Essoin, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed.

Collectors to produce a List of Defaulters.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Collector or Collectors of the said Poor's Rate shall, for the Time to come, produce, yearly, and every Year, at the auditing of his or their Accounts, in a separate Book, a true List of the Names and Places of Abode of those Persons who were rated in the foregoing Year for the Relief of the Poor, and have not paid the said Rate, together with the Sum or Sums which remain unpaid by each Person respectively; which Book shall remain under the Care of the Vestry-clerk, and shall be produced by him for the Inspection of the Governors of the Poor at their weekly Meetings, and at all seasonable Times for the Inspection of the Vestrymen of the said Parish, without Fee or Reward.

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

FINIS.