ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LXXIX.

An Act for the more effectual preventing the forging of the Notes or Bills of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*; and for the preventing the obtaining a false Credit, by the Imitation of the Notes or Bills of the said Governor and Company.

WHEREAS Frauds have lately been committed by forging the Notes and Bills of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, notwithstanding the Statutes now in Force for punishing and suppressing the same; for the more effectual preventing such Practices, 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 Preamble.

After *Sept.* 29, 1773, Persons making Moulds, Frames, &c. for forging Paper Notes of the Bank of *England*,

Twenty-ninth Day of September, which shall be in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, if any Person or Persons, (other than the Officers, Workmen, Servants, or Agents, for the Time being, of the said Governor and Company, to be authorised and appointed for that Purpose by the said Governor and Company, and for the Use of the said Governor and Company only), shall make or use, or cause or procure to be made or used, or knowingly aid or assist in the making or using; or (without being authorised and appointed as aforesaid) shall knowingly have in his, her, or their Custody or Possession, (without lawful Excuse, the Proof whereof shall lie upon the Person accused), any Frame, Mould, or Instrument, for the making of Paper, with the Words Bank of England, visible in the Substance of such Paper; or shall make, or cause or procure to be made, or knowingly aid or assist in the making any Paper, in the Substance of which the said Words, Bank of England, shall be visible; or if any Person, (except as before excepted) after the said Twenty-ninth Day of September, shall, by any Art, Mystery, or Contrivance, cause or procure the said Words, Bank of England, to appear visible in the Substance of any Paper whatsoever, or knowingly aid or assist in causing the said Words, Bank of England, to appear in the Substance of any Paper whatsoever; every Person so offending in any of the Cases aforesaid, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall, for such Offence, be deemed and adjudged a Felon, and shall suffer Death as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

or having in their Custody Moulds or Instruments for that Purpose,

to be adjudged guilty of Felony, and suffer Death.

Persons engraving, cutting, or etching, in Mezzotinto, Notes to resemble Inland Bills, Promissory Notes, Bills of Exchange, &c.;

And whereas unwary and other Persons have taken in Payment, and otherwise received, Notes, Inland Bills, and Bills of Exchange, with certain Words and Characters so nearly resembling the Notes and Bills of the said Governor and Company, as to appear to such Persons to be the Notes or Bills of the Bank of England, which, if continued to be done, will be to the great Prejudice of publick Credit; be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That

from and after the said Twenty-ninth Day of September, if any Person or Persons, without being authorised and appointed as aforesaid, shall engrave, cut, etch, or scrape in Mezzotinto, or shall cause or procure to be engraved, cut, etched, or scraped in Mezzotinto, or shall knowingly aid or assist in the engraving, cutting, etching, or scraping in Mezzotinto, in or upon any Plate of Copper, Brass, Steel, Pewter, or of any other Metal or Mixture of Metals, or upon Wood, or any other Material, or any Plate whatsoever, any Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, or Blank Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, or Part of a Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, containing the Words, Bank of England, or Bank Post Bill, or any Word or Words expressing the Sum or Amount, or any Part of the Sum or Amount of such Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, in White Letters or Figures on a Black Ground; or shall use any such Plate so engraved, cut, etched, or scraped in Mezzotinto, or shall use any other Instrument for the making or printing any such Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, or Blank Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, or Part of a Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange; if any Person, without being authorised and appointed as aforesaid, shall, after the Twenty-fifth Day of December, which shall be in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, knowingly have in his, her, or their Custody, any such Plate or Instrument, or shall knowingly and wilfully utter or publish any such Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange, Blank Promissory Note, Inland Bill, or Bill of Exchange; every such Person so offending in any of the Cases aforesaid, and being convicted thereof according to Law, shall be committed to the common Gaol of the County or Place where the Offence shall be committed, for any Space not exceeding Six Months.

and after *Dec.* 25, shall wilfully publish such Promissory Notes, Inland Bills, *&c.*

shall be committed not exceeding Six Months.

This Act not to extend to Persons possessed of such Notes carrying the same for Payment.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to such Person or Persons who being at any Time hereafter possessed of any such Note or Bill, shall only utter the same by carrying the same for Payment to the Issuer or Issuers, Drawer or Drawers, Accepter or Accepters, Indorser or Indorsers thereof respectively, or using proper Means to compel the Payment of any such Note or Bill.

FINIS.