ANNO DECIMO QUINTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XIII.

An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of *East* and *West Flegg*, in the County of *Norfolk*.

WHEREAS the Poor within the Hundreds of East and West Flegg, in the County of Norfolk, are very numerous, and are maintained at a great Expence: And whereas the granting proper Powers for the Government and Regulation of the Poor in the said Hundreds, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief and Assistance of such as by Age or Infirmities are rendered incapable of supporting themselves, to the better Employment of the Able and Industrious, to the Correction of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of the poor Children: May it therefore 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 Preamble.

What Persons are to be Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of *East* and *West Flegg*:

by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twenty-fifth Day of April, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, all Persons who shall be seized, in his, her, or their own Right, of Lands, Tenements, Tithes, or Hereditaments, of the yearly Value of Thirty Pounds, situate within the said Hundreds of East and West Flegg, in the said County of Norfolk; and all Persons who are or shall be acting Justices of the Peace for the said County; and all Persons who shall possess or occupy within the said Hundreds, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Tithes, of the yearly Value of Eighty Pounds; and every Person whose usual Place of Residence at the Time he or she shall act as a Guardian shall be within One of the said Hundreds, he or she being possessed of Two hundred Pounds a Year, or upwards, in Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Tithes, within the said County of Norfolk; shall be, and are

Their Name:

hereby incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of *East* and *West Flegg*, in the County of *Norfolk*; and shall for ever thereafter be deemed and taken to 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 Hundreds of *East* and *West Flegg*, in the County of *Norfolk*;

Their Powers.

and shall sue and plead and be sued by that Name, in all Courts whatsoever; and by that Name purchase, take, and receive, any Goods or Chattels whatsoever, for the Use of the said Corporation.

Guardians who are Justices may act as such in the Execution of this Act, except where interested.

Provided always, That any of the said Guardians who are Justices of the Peace, may act as such in the Execution of this Act, notwithstanding their being Guardians, except only in such Cases where they shall be personally interested.

Lands not to be held for a longer Term than Five Years, *&c.* (except as after mentioned.)

Provided always, That the said Corporation shall not be capable of taking or holding any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, (except as herein-after mentioned), for a longer Term than Five Years; but shall within that Time bargain, sell, and, under their Common Seal, convey, to Persons willing to purchase the same, all such Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, as by charitable Persons may be granted or given to them;

and that the Monies arising by such Sale, and the Rents and Profits of the Premises until Sale, shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians for the Benefit of the said Corporation.

Money arising by Sale of Lands, &c. to be paid to the Treasurer.

And be it further enacted, That all poor Persons, incapable of providing for themselves within the said Hundreds, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of their several Parishes, in the same Manner they now are, until the House or Houses herein-after mentioned shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and that within Ten Days next after the General Meeting of the Guardians, herein-after directed to be held, the Directors and acting Guardians herein-after mentioned shall cause Notice to be given to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes in the said Hundreds, or any of them, requiring them to convey, within Eight Days after such Notice, all poor Children and other Persons incapable of providing for themselves, then applying for Relief, and being in a proper State to be removed unto such House or Houses, to be built for their Reception, as herein-after is mentioned; and that the said poor Persons shall from thenceforth be under the Government and Management of the said Guardians of the Poor, who shall receive and provide for them according to the Directions of this Act: And that all such poor Children, and other Persons incapable of providing for themselves, shall not, from and after such Notice, be relieved by the Churchwardens or Overseers of their respective Parishes, unless by an Order under the Hands of Three or more Guardians or Directors at any Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act; and that all poor Children, which at any Time shall be maintained by the said Guardians, may be and remain under their Government, the Boys till they arrive at the Age of Sixteen Years, and the Girls till they arrive at the Age of Fourteen Years; and that after such Boys shall have attained the Age of Sixteen Years, and Girls the Age of Fourteen Years, they may be discharged from the Government of the said Guardians.

Poor Persons to continue under the Government of Churchwardens, &c. till the House be built.

Notice to be given to Churchwardens of the Time of the Reception of the Poor.

Poor not to be relieved by Churchwardens after such Notice, unless by Order of Three Guardians.

How long the poor Children shall continue under the Government of the Guardians.

Directors and acting Guardians may bind out Children as Apprentices.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for the Directors and acting Guardians herein-after mentioned, at the General Annual Meeting, or any Quarterly Meeting by this Act directed, with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Norfolk, to bind any such Children Apprentices for any Term such Directors and acting Guardians shall think fit, not exceeding Seven Years, so that no such Boy shall be obliged to continue to serve as an Apprentice after he shall have attained the Age of Twenty-one Years, nor any such Girl after she shall have attained the Age of Eighteen Years, or the Time of her Marriage; and all such Apprentices shall be bound by Indenture, without Stamps, in like Manner as Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor are, by the Laws now in being, impowered to do; and the Persons to whom such Children shall be bound Apprentices shall be obliged to provide for such Apprentices, in like Manner as they are by the Laws in being now obliged to do; and no Apprentice so bound, as aforesaid, shall (except with the Consent of the Directors and acting Guardians present at a Weekly Meeting, to be held as herein-after mentioned) be assigned or turned over to any other Person whomsoever; and that all Persons, to whom such Apprentices shall be assigned and turned over, shall be obliged to provide for them in the same Manner as the Persons to whom they were first bound.

No Apprentice to be turned over to another Master without the Consent of the Directors, &c.

Guardians may let out poor Persons to work in Harvest, &c.

Provided also, That the Directors and acting Guardians may, on Application to them for that Purpose, let out to hire such Number of the said poor Persons and Children, to be employed in the Harvest, or any other Work suitable to their Strength and Ability, and at such Wages as shall be agreed on between the Directors and Guardians and the Person hiring the same, such Wages to be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and applied for the Purposes of this Act.

In case of Dispute concerning Wages, &c. Justices impowered to settle Differences.

Provided also, That if any Dispute shall arise between the Directors and Guardians of the Poor, or such poor Persons or Children so let out to Work and the Person or Persons hiring the same, either in Default of Payment of the Wages agreed upon, or of ill Usage,

or

or of Neglect of Work or Idleness in the Persons or Children so let out to Work, it shall and may be lawful for the Person or Persons aggrieved to apply to any Justice of the Peace for the County where such Cause of Complaint shall arise, who shall have Power to settle such Dispute, and order such Payments, or give such Redress, as Justices are now impowered to do, by Law, between Masters and Servants in Husbandry.

If Relations of any poor Persons willing to provide for them make Application, Guardians, &c. impowered to dismiss them.

Provided also, That if the Parents or Relations of poor Persons, maintained by the said Corporation, or any other responsible Person, shall desire to receive and provide for such poor Persons, the Directors and acting Guardians, if they think proper, at any Weekly Meeting, may dismiss such Children or Persons; and if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall refuse to dismiss such Children or poor Persons at Two successive Weekly Meetings, it shall and may be lawful for such Parents, Relations, or other responsible Person, to apply to any Justice of the Peace for the said County, who shall proceed to summon the Governor or Steward of the said House, and hear and determine the Matter of the said Complaint, and dismiss such Children or poor Persons, or to make such other Order therein as to such Justice shall seem just and proper, any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding; and that such poor Persons, as the Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being shall think capable of maintaining themselves may be also dismissed.

Manner of Proceeding in case of Refusal.

Time and Place of the Meeting.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, or so many of them as shall think proper, shall meet at Caistor, next Great Yarmouth, in the said Hundreds, on the First Tuesday after the Twenty-fifth Day of April next, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and being then and there assembled, shall proceed to the Execution of this Act; and between the said Hour of Ten and the Hour of One of the same Day, the Majority then present shall appoint One of the said Guardians to be President or Chairman of such Meeting, and such President shall cause the Rest of the said Guardians then present, to proceed, by way of Ballot, to the Choice of Twenty-four of the said

President and Twenty four Guardians to be appointed.

Guardians, who shall be Directors of the Poor within the said Hundreds of East and West Flegg.

Qualifications of Directors.

And be it further enacted, That all Persons who shall be resident within the said Hundreds, or in Great Yarmouth, and who shall be seised or possessed of Lands or Tenements of the yearly Value of Two hundred Pounds, (provided not less than Thirty Pounds per Annum, Part thereof, shall be situate within the said Hundreds); and the Heirs Apparent of all Persons who shall be resident within the said Hundreds, or in Great Yarmouth, and who shall be seised or possessed of Lands or Tenements of the yearly Value of Four hundred Pounds, (provided not less than Sixty Pounds a Year, Part thereof, shall be situate within the said Hundreds), shall be Directors of the Poor within the said Hundreds, and shall be joined with the said Twenty-four Directors for the several Purposes of this Act; and the said Directors shall and may, by Ballot, from Time to Time, elect and choose One proper and substantial Person to be Treasurer, and One proper Person to be Clerk to the said Guardians, and such other Officer or Officers as they shall think proper; which Clerk shall, from Time to Time, enter all the Proceedings of the Directors and Guardians in a Book or Books, to be kept for that Purpose; which Book or Books shall be produced by the said Clerk, on Demand, at any seasonable Time, for the Inspection of every Person paying Sixpence, and requiring to see the same, such Person being qualified to be a Guardian by virtue of this Act.

Directors to choose a Treasurer and Clerk, &c.

Clerk's Duty.

Persons acting, and not duly qualified, to forfeit 50 *l.*

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons not duly qualified to act as a Guardian or Director, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall nevertheless presume to act as such, every such Person shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds to any Person suing for the same, by Action of Debt, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; and every Person so prosecuted shall prove that he is qualified as aforesaid, or otherwise shall pay the said Penalty, without any other Proof given on the Part of the Prosecutor than that such Person hath acted as a

Director or acting Guardian in the Execution of this Act, within Six Calendar Months before the Commencement of such Suit.

Salaries to the Treasurer, &c. to be paid out of the Monies raised by this Act.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors shall, and they are hereby authorised to allow such Rewards and Salaries to the Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers or Persons who shall be employed by them, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, and to take such Security from such Treasurer and other Officers and Persons for the due Execution of his or their Office or Offices, as to the said Directors shall seem meet.

Treasurers, &c. to continue in Office during the Pleasure of Directors.

And be it further enacted, That the said Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers, shall continue in their respective Offices only during the Pleasure of the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being; and that the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any Quarterly Meeting appointed as herein-after is mentioned, by Ballot, may displace them, or any of them; and in that Case, or upon their Death or Resignation, may choose others in their Stead, with such Salaries and Allowances, and under such Security, as the said Directors and acting Guardians think proper.

In case of Death, &c. others to be chosen.

Directors impowered to contract for Land to build upon.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors, or any Sixteen of them, shall, and they are hereby impowered and required, as soon as conveniently may be, to enter into Contract, and to agree for the absolute Purchase, to them and their Successors, of any Estate of Inheritance, or for the renting any Quantity of Land, Buildings, or Houses, or for improving and inclosing any Common or waste Ground, with the Leave of the Lord or Lords, Lady or Ladies, of the Manor or Manors for the Time being, for the Use of the said Corporation, and their Successors, not exceeding in the Whole Forty Acres, lying in such Part or Parts of the said Hundreds, as shall by the said Directors, or any Sixteen of them, be deemed convenient and proper for the Situation of a House or Houses for the Reception and Maintenance of the Poor in the said Hundreds.

Bodies Politick, &c. impowered to sell Lands, Buildings, &c.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Body Politick, Husbands, Guardians, and all other Trustees whatsoever, not only for and on the Behalf of themselves, their Heirs and Successors, but also for and on Behalf of their Cestuique Trusts, or other Person or Persons, and to and for all Femes-covert, who are or shall be seised or interested in any Lands, Buildings, or Grounds, in the said Hundreds, to contract for, sell, grant, and convey, unto the said Directors for the Time being, all or any Part of such Lands, Buildings, or Grounds, for the Use of the said Corporation; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Lord or Lords, Lady or Ladies, for the Time being, of any Manor or Manors in the said Hundreds, to grant to the said Corporation any Part of any Common or waste Grounds, within any such Manor or Manors for the Purposes of this Act, not exceeding in the Whole Forty Acres, so as a free Rent be reserved for the same, according to the then Value of such Common or waste Ground; and that such Part of the said Rent, in Proportion to the Produce thereof, to the Lord or Lady of the said Manor for the Time being, (such Proportion to be settled by the said Directors, or any Sixteen of them, and the Lord or Lady of the said Manor), shall be reserved to the Lord or Lady of such Manor, and his and her Heirs and Successors, and the Residue thereof to be reserved and made payable to the Overseers of the Poor of such Parish for the Time being, to be by them applied in Aid of the Poors Rate of such Parish; and also that the Lord or Lady of such Manor or Manors may grant Licence to the said Directors, to dig and take Earth and Sand, for the making Bricks and Mortar for the Purposes mentioned in this Act, on any Common or waste Ground in the said Hundreds; and that such Grants so to be made by any such Lord or Lady as aforesaid, shall be valid and effectual against all Persons whomsoever having or claiming Commonage or other Right in such Commons or Waste.

Lords, &c. of Manors may grant Licence to dig Earth and Sand for the Purposes of this Act on any Common in the said Hundreds.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors shall and may, and they are hereby required, within Two Years next after the entering into Contract or Contracts for the Purchase of Lands or Buildings, as aforesaid, to build and erect, or cause to be altered or fitted up, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Land so contracted for, 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 aged or infirm Persons; also another convenient Building for such young Children as are not able to work; and One other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve for the Reception, Maintenance, or Employment, of such poor Persons as are able to work; and One other separate Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as an Infirmary for the Reception of the Sick; and also a separate Place for Lunaticks, and such other Buildings as the said Directors shall find necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act, which shall be called The House [*or* Houses] for the Poor of the Hundreds of *East* and *West Flegg*; and the said Directors shall keep the Buildings, so erected or purchased 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 Expences of purchasing such Lands or Buildings, and of erecting and repairing such Houses or Buildings, and keeping the same in Repair, shall be defrayed out of the Money arising by virtue of this Act.

Within Two Years after Directors shall have entered into Contract for Land, they are to erect proper Buildings for the Reception and Maintenance of the Poor.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, shall be, and they are hereby declared to constitute 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 Three of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, order any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treasurer for the Time being, out of the Monies in his Hands, for the Purposes of this Act; and such Order and Orders

Directors to constitute a Committee, to superintend the Buildings:

Their Proceedings to be entered in a Book.

Orders shall be a Discharge to the Treasurer for such Money paid in pursuance of such Order or Orders.

Directors, Six Months after the Buildings are finished, to provide all necessary Furniture, &c.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors, or any Five of them, shall and may, within Six Calendar 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 Hemp, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, and other Materials, for the Employment of the Poor to be 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.

The Building, &c. may be performed by Contract.

And be it further enacted, That the Building, fitting up and furnishing, the said House or Houses, to be built under the Authority of this Act, shall be by Contract or Agreement, entered into at some Meeting to be held for that Purpose, and which Meeting shall be held in pursuance of publick Notice, by Advertisement in the Norwich and Ipswich News Papers, at least Twenty-one Days before such Meeting; and that all Proposals, as well for the Building, fitting up and furnishing, the said House or Houses, as for the supplying Materials for the Purposes aforesaid, shall be in Writing, and delivered to such Person or Persons as shall be appointed in the said Advertisements to receive the same, at least Five Days before any Meeting for entering into such Contracts; and that no such Contract shall be made or entered into by the said Directors at any such Meeting, unless Nine of the said Directors at least are present, and the major Part of such Directors shall agree to and sign such Contract.

Proposals to be delivered in Five Days before any Meeting for entering into Contract.

After the Buildings are finished, Directors to call a General Meeting.

And be it further enacted, That when and so soon as the said Buildings shall be completed, and furnished, and properly fitted up for the Reception of the Poor of the said Hundreds, the said Directors shall call a General Meeting of all the Guardians under this Act, by Advertisement in the Norwich News Papers, at which General Meeting, in case any of the said Directors, who shall have been chosen by Ballot, as aforesaid, shall be dead,

or shall be removed out of the said Hundreds, or shall refuse to act in the said Office, the said Guardians shall elect so many fit Persons from among the Guardians to be Directors in the Room and Stead of such Directors, dying, removing, or refusing to act, as aforesaid, so as to compleat the Number of Twenty-four, which said new Directors shall be elected by Ballot, in Manner aforesaid; and the said Guardians, at such Meeting assembled, shall also by Ballot elect Twenty-four Guardians from amongst all the Guardians appointed by this Act, who together with the said other Directors shall be the Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor, for putting in Execution all the Powers and Authorities in this Act contained for the Remainder of the Year in which they shall be so elected, and until the First Tuesday after the Fifth Day of July then next following.

Directors and acting Guardians impowered to make Bye-Laws.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall have full Power and Authority, from Time to Time, at any Quarterly Meeting, to make 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, and for the carrying on any Trade which shall be thought proper to be carried on by the said Corporation, as for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act; and also to constitute and appoint such and so many Committees, to consist of such Number of the said Directors and acting Guardians as shall be thought fit, for the more easy Execution of the several Trusts and Powers hereby reposed in the said Corporation; and afterwards, from Time to Time, 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 as such Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land.

Bye-Laws or Orders repealed to be produced at the next Quarter Sessions.

Provided also, That after the having made, repealed, altered, or amended, any Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, for the better governing the said Corporation, or for the better governing, employing, and supporting the said poor Persons, such Bye-Laws, Rules,

Orders, or Constitutions, as shall then belong to the said incorporated Society, shall be produced at the then next following General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden at Norwich, in and for the County of Norfolk; and such of the Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, as shall not then be allowed and confirmed under the Hand of the Chairman of the said Sessions, and by Order of the said Court, shall no longer be of any Effect or Validity; any Thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bye-Laws, &c. as soon as confirmed, to be printed.

Provided also, That all Bye-Laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, shall, as soon as confirmed by the Quarter Sessions, be printed, from Time to Time, for the Use of the Members of the said Corporation, their Officers and Servants, and be sent to and delivered to the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of Norfolk, to be laid before the Chairman of the next Quarter Sessions, and to be filed and kept in the said Court.

At what Time One of the General Quarterly Meetings is to be held.

And be it further enacted, That Four General or Quarterly Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians shall be held in every Year; and One of such Meetings shall be held annually on the First Tuesday after the Fifth Day of July; all which Meetings shall be held at the House to be erected as aforesaid, or at Caister, in the said Hundreds, or at Great Yarmouth aforesaid at such Times as are herein-after appointed; and that at the said First Meeting, on the First Tuesday after the Fifth Day of July, the Place of the next Quarterly Meeting shall be appointed; and the Place of holding every succeeding Quarterly Meeting shall be appointed at the preceding Quarterly Meeting; and that at the said annual Meeting, to be held on the First Tuesday after the Fifth Day of July, the said Directors, and all the Guardians appointed by this Act, may attend; and the Directors and Guardians present at every such Meeting, between the Hours of Ten of the Clock in the Morning and One of the Clock in the Afternoon, by Ballot, shall and may discharge Eight of the said Twenty-four Directors, who shall in the preceding Year have been elected by Ballot; and the Directors and Guardians then present shall, by

How the other Quarterly Meetings are to be appointed.

How Directors and Guardians are to be chosen.

Ballot,

Ballot, elect and chuſe Eight of the ſaid Guardians to be Directors in the Place and Stead of the ſaid Eight Directors ſo diſcharged; and ſhall alſo, by Ballot, fill up any Vacancies that may have happened, by Death, Removal, or Reſignation, of any of the ſaid Directors, ſo as to compleat the Number of the ſaid Twenty-four Directors, elected by Ballot as aforeſaid: Provided, that any of the ſaid Eight Directors ſo diſcharged ſhall and may be re-elected at ſuch Meeting; and ſhall alſo, by Ballot, proceed and chuſe Twenty-four Guardians to be acting Guardians with the ſaid Twenty-four Directors for the following Year, Eight at leaſt of which ſaid new elected Guardians ſhall not have been acting Guardians the preceding Year: And at the ſaid Meeting on the First Tueſday after the Fifth Day of July annually, the Directors and acting Guardians then preſent ſhall examine and audit the Treaſurer's Accounts, and ſhall, by Ballot, re-elect the ſame Perſon, or any other Perſon, to be Treaſurer for the following Year.

When and by whom the Treaſurer's Books are to be examined.

And be it further enacted, That the Three other General or Quarterly Meetings ſhall be held annually at the Times following; (that is to ſay), On the Firſt Tueſday after the Tenth Day of October, the Firſt Tueſday after the Fifth Day of January, and the Firſt Tueſday after the Fifth Day of April.

Times for holding Quarterly Meetings.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That at any of the ſaid General Quarterly Meetings, the Directors and acting Guardians then preſent ſhall and may, by Ballot, as aforeſaid, fill up any Vacancies that may have happened in the ſaid Twenty-four Directors, who ſhall have been elected by Ballot as aforeſaid, and Twenty-four acting Guardians, by Death, or otherwiſe.

Vacancies to be filled up at Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians ſhall, at the ſaid annual Meeting on the First Tueſday after the Fifth Day of July, appoint Twelve Directors and acting Guardians together, (Six whereof at leaſt to be Directors), for each Quarter of the ſucceeding Year, to inſpect, direct, manage, and provide, for the ſaid Poor; and, for that Purpoſe, the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians, or any Three or more of them, (One whereof to be a Director) ſhall and may, in

At the annual Meeting in *July*, 12 Directors and Guardians to be appointed, to inſpect and provide for the Poor, &c.

the respective Quarters of the Year for which they shall be appointed as aforesaid, meet at the said House or Houses, to be built for the Reception of the Poor, as aforesaid, on the Tuesday Morning, at Eleven of the Clock, in every Week, or oftener if they shall think it necessary, together with the Clerk for the Time being, (except in such Weeks as Quarterly Meetings shall be held, and then on the Monday Mornings), and shall 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.

Directors, &c. may order Money to be given to poor Persons not residing in the House.

Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any of the said Weekly Meetings, to order and direct such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall think proper to be paid to any poor Person or Persons, for the immediate Relief of such Person or Persons, although such Person or Persons shall not be maintained or reside in such House or Houses; any Thing in this Act, or any Bye-Law, Rule, Order, or Constitution, made under the Authority of this Act, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Directors and Guardians may divide themselves into Committees.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That the said Twelve 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 divide themselves into Committees of Four, to act in each Month in each Quarter, but so as not to preclude any of such Twelve from being present, or voting, at any such Weekly or other Meeting, as aforesaid; and if there shall not at any such Weekly or other Meeting be Three Directors and acting Guardians present, (whereof One shall be a Director), every Director who, by such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings;

Penalty 10 s. for Non-attendance of Directors;

and every Guardian who by such Agreement ought to have attended, and who shall be absent, shall, for every such

and 5 s. for Non-attendance of Guardians.

Offence, forfeit the Sum of Five Shillings; to be paid to the Treasurer, and added to the Common Stock, for the Relief and Employment of the Poor as aforesaid; and if such Director or Guardian shall refuse to pay such Forfeiture on Demand, the same to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Director or Guardian, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Norfolk.

Accounts of the preceding Quarter to be settled at every General Quarterly Meeting,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at every General Quarterly Meeting, which shall be holden after the First General Meeting, the said Directors and acting Guardians for the preceding Quarter shall settle their Accounts, and cause the same to be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the then next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden at Norwich, for the County of Norfolk; and the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, shall lay the same before the Justices of the Peace, assembled at such Sessions, to be by them examined, passed, and allowed, in open Court, for which a Fee of Five Shillings and Threepence, and no more, shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy.

and the Clerk to lay the same before the Justices.

Nine Directors and Guardians to be present at Quarterly Meetings.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That at all the Four General Quarterly Meetings, by this Act directed to be held, not less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (Five whereof at the least shall be Directors) shall be present before any Business shall be done, and that the major Part of them so assembled (of which major Part Two at least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to every Order made at such Meeting.

Directors, &c. may borrow 6000*l.*

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians, by Order of any Nine or more of the said Directors, to borrow and take up at Interest, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Six thousand Pounds, and to assign over, by Writing, without Stamps, under the common Seal of the said Corporation, all and every the Buildings, Lands, and Premises, of

and assign the Buildings and Rates as a Security for Payment.

the said Corporation, and all or any Part of the Poors Rates, to be collected within the said Hundreds, as hereinafter mentioned, as a Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest of the Money so to be borrowed; (the Charges of such Assignments to be paid out of the Monies raised by virtue of this Act); and Copies of all such Assignments shall be entered in a Book or Books, to be kept by the Clerk for that Purpose; and that all and every Person and Persons, to whom any such Assignments shall be made, or who shall be intitled to the Money thereby secured, is and are hereby impowered, from Time to Time, by Assignment under his, her, or their Hand or Hands, to be indorsed on the Back of his, her, or their Security, or by any other Writing or Writings, to be executed under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, in the Presence of Two or more credible Witnesses, to assign or transfer his, her, or their Right to the Principal and Interest Money thereby secured.

Copies of Assignments to be entered in a Book by the Clerk.

Assignments may be transferred.

Provided, That all such Assignments shall, within One Calendar Month after the Date thereof, be produced to the Clerk of the said Corporation, who shall cause an Entry to be made of such Assignment, containing the Date, Names of the Parties and Witnesses, and of the Sums of Money therein mentioned, to be assigned or transferred in the said Book or Books wherein the Original Assignments are entered; and for every such Entry the said Clerk shall be paid Two Shillings and Sixpence, and no more; and that all and every Person and Persons to whom such Assignments shall be made, shall be, in proportion to the Sum or Sums therein secured, Creditors on the said Buildings, Lands, and Rates, equally One with another, and shall have no Preference in respect to the Priority of advancing such Money.

Assignments to be produced to the Clerk One Month after Date, *etc.*

No Creditor to have any Preference.

Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for any Nine or more of the said Directors, before the said acting Guardians shall be elected, in Manner aforesaid, to borrow at Interest such Sums of Money as they shall find necessary for the Purposes of this Act, in Manner be-

Directors, before Guardians are elected, may borrow Money for the Purposes of this Act.

fore directed, subject to the Directions herein-before pre-scribed for the borrowing Money.

And be it further enacted, That in case the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper to raise the Sum of Three thousand Pounds, or any less Sum, Part of the said Six thousand Pounds, by Annuities, instead of borrowing the same at Interest, as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians to take and receive any Part or Parts of such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall think proper, not exceeding the said Sum of Three thousand Pounds, of any Person or Persons willing to lend or advance the same, upon Annuities for the Life or Lives of such Person or Persons, and to assign over and charge, by Writing without Stamps, under the Seal of the said Corporation, all or any Part of the said Buildings, Lands, and Premises, and all or any Part of the Poors Rates, to be collected within the said Hundreds of East and West Flegg, as herein-after mentioned, as a Security for Payment of such Annuity or Annuities, as they shall think reasonable, for the Sum or Sums so paid or advanced for the Life or Lives of the Person or Persons only who shall pay or advance the same; (the Charges of which Assignments shall be paid out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act); and Copies of all such Assignments shall be entered in a Book or Books, to be kept by the Clerk belonging to the said Corporation; and all and every Person and Persons to whom any such Assignment shall be made, or who shall be intitled to the Annuity or Annuities thereby secured, is and are hereby impowered, by Assignment, under his, her, or their Hand or Hands, to be indorsed on the Back of his, her, or their Security or Securities, or by any Writing or Writings to be executed under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, in the Presence of Two or more credible Witnesses, without Stamps, to bargain, sell, assign, or transfer, his, her, or their Security or Securities, and his, her, or their Right to the Annuity or Annuities thereby secured, to any Person or

3000 *l.* may be raised by granting Annuities,

and the Lands, *etc.* may be assigned for Payment.

All Sales or Assignments to be entered by the Clerk within One Month.

or Persons whomsoever; and all such Sales or Assignments shall, within One Calendar Month after the Date thereof, be produced and notified to the said Clerk, who shall cause an Entry to be made of such Sales and Assignments, containing the Dates, Names of the Parties and Witnesses, and of the Annuity or Annuities therein mentioned to be sold and assigned, in the said Book or Books directed to be kept for entering the said Original Assignments, and for each of such Entries the said Clerk shall be paid the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence, and no more; and which said Book or Books shall and may at all seasonable Times be perused and inspected without Fee or Reward; and after such Entry made, such Assignment or Transfer shall intitle such Assignee, his, her, and their Executors and Administrators, to the Benefit thereof and Payment thereon, and such Assignee or Assignees may in like Manner assign or transfer again, and so toties quoties; and it shall not be in the Power of any Person who shall have made such Assignment or Transfer to make void, release, or discharge the same, or any Monies due thereon; and all and every Person or Persons to whom such Sales and Assignments shall be made shall be Creditors on the same Rates equally One with another, and shall have no Preference in respect of the Priority of such Sales and Assignments.

Books may be inspected by all Persons concerned.

No Annuities to be granted to Persons under 50 Years of Age, *etc.*

Provided nevertheless, That no Annuity or Annuities shall be granted or made payable unto, or in Trust for, any One Person under the Age of Fifty Years, nor for any Sum exceeding Fifty Pounds per Annum.

What Sums may be borrowed.

Provided also, That the whole Money to be borrowed or raised by Mortgage and Annuities, by virtue of this Act, shall not exceed the Sum of Six thousand Pounds; any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

Parishes to be assessed for Payment of Money borrowed.

And for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed, and Payment of any Annuities which shall be granted by virtue of this Act, and for providing for the Poor to be employed or relieved in the said House or Houses to be provided, as aforesaid,

and for defraying the other Expences attending the Execution of this Act, be it further enacted, That at the said yearly and general Quarterly Meetings, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to assess, with as much Equality and Impartiality as possible, such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates herein-after mentioned, upon the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, within the said Hundreds, as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall judge necessary, for paying the Interest due on the Money borrowed and the said Annuities, and for defraying the Expences of the current Quarter, and for and towards paying off and discharging the said principal Debt; and such Assessmen being signed and allowed by Two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, or being delivered to the Clerk of the Peace for the said County, or his Deputy, at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County, and being allowed by the Justices at such Sessions, (for which no Fee or Reward shall be paid or received), the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, (One whereof to be a Director), shall and they are hereby impowered to issue Warrants under the Seal of the said Corporation to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, within the said Hundreds, requiring such Churchwardens or Overseers, at some particular Time and Place to be mentioned in the said Warrants, to pay the Sum so assessed upon the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, to the Treasurer of the said Corporation for the Time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge to such respective Churchwardens and Overseers; and for raising the Sums so assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians on the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of each Parish, Hamlet, and Place, shall, and they are hereby authorised and required, from Time to Time, with as much Equality as is possible, to raise, by Taxation of

After Assessments are signed by Two Justices, Directors to issue Warrants to Churchwardens to pay Money raised to the Treasurer,

whose Receipt shall be a legal Discharge.

How Assessments are to be raised.

every Inhabitant, Rector, and Vicar, and of every Occupier of Land, Houses, Tenements, Tithes impropriate, Propriations of Tithes, Mines, or saleable Underwoods, in their respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, by the said Directors and acting Guardians; for all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the respective Parishes, Hamlets, 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 Quarterly Meeting; and such Rates 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, and with the same Power of Appeal to Persons aggrieved.

In case of Deficiency, the Money to be levied by Re-assessment.

Provided always, That the Sums to be assessed by the Directors and acting Guardians on the respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, shall not exceed in any One Year the Sum which shall have been rated, assessed, or expended, for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor in such respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in One Year, upon a Medium or Average of Five Years, to be drawn from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine.

Sums assessed not to exceed the former yearly Rates.

Provided also, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act shall extend to hinder or prevent the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes, within the said Hundreds, from assessing and raising any Sum or Sums of Money which have heretofore been paid out of the Sums raised, to make good the Overseers Disbursements, and not disbursed for the Maintenance of the Poor; but that such Sums shall and may be assessed and raised by each Parish, over and besides the Sums assessed and required to be paid to the

Churchwardens may raise Sums besides the Sums assessed for the Maintenance of the Poor.

Directors and acting Guardians for the Purposes of this Act, and shall be accounted for as if this Act had not been made.

Houses, Lands, &c. which have been charged to the Poors Rates to continue so.

Provided always, That all such Houses, Lands, and Tithes, as are now, and usually have been, charged and rated to the Poors Rates of the respective Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, in the said Hundreds, shall continue to be charged and rated, although such Houses, Lands, or Tithes, are not within the said Hundreds of East and West Flegg; and that all such Houses and Lands as have been usually charged and rated to the Poor, as aforesaid, shall be and be deemed as Parcel and Part of the said Hundreds of East and West Flegg, for all the Purposes of this Act, but for no other Purpose whatsoever, any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Private Charity and Donations still to be applied according to the Will of the Donor.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no private Charity or Donation whatsoever, heretofore given, or hereafter to be given, to any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or to any Person or Persons in Trust for the Benefit of any Person or Persons of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds, shall be any-wise altered or affected by reason of any Thing herein contained, but the same shall remain and continue to be managed and applied according to the true Intent of the Donors thereof, or in such Manner as the same have been heretofore managed and applied, or ought to have been managed and applied.

Churchwardens, on Notice, to attend at the First Meeting with their Books for last Ten Years, &c.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them, for every Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in the said Hundreds, shall, and they are hereby required, upon Notice in Writing, signed by One of the said Guardians, being delivered to them respectively, or left at their respective Places of Abode, at least Seven Days 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 their respective Parishes for Ten Years, from Easter, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, to Easter, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-four,

have

have been entered; and where no such Books shall be kept, then with the original Rates or Disbursements for the Maintenance of the Poor; and shall leave in the Custody of the President or Chairman, to be chosen at such Meeting, such Books and Rates, together with an Account of such other Sums of Money, not included in the said Rates, as shall have been expended in the said Ten Years by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the several Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, in the said Hundreds, for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor of every such Parish, Hamlet, or Place respectively; and such President or Chairman shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the Directors to be then elected, as aforesaid, to the End that the said Directors may examine the same, and fix and ascertain the Proportions to be afterwards observed in assessing the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the said Churchwardens and Overseers, when they or any of them shall demand the same, after the Expiration of Twenty Days from the Delivery thereof to such President or Chairman; and in case any of the said Accounts or original Rates for any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, shall not be produced at such First Meeting of the said Guardians, such Directors, to be then appointed as aforesaid, shall and may nevertheless assess such Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, at their Discretion, but as equally as they can, in Proportion with the other Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, Regard being had to the Value of such Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, and to the Number of Poor usually maintained therein, with the like Power of Appeal to Persons aggrieved, as is given by the Laws now in being in Cases of Parish Assessments; and the said Directors and acting Guardians, for the Purpose of fixing or ascertaining such Assessments, are hereby authorised and required, if necessary, to take Examinations on Oath, which Oath they are hereby impowered to administer.

Directors to examine the same, for fixing the Proportions to be observed in assessing.

How Directors are to proceed, in case Accounts be not produced.

Examinations may be taken on Oath.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being of all the Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, within the said Hundreds, shall, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, aid and assist the said Directors and acting Guardians to the best of their Power, and shall at all Times obey their Order and Orders, relative to the Execution of this Act: And in case any Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so as aforesaid assessed upon his and their respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or to pay, at the Time and Place to be appointed for that Purpose by the said Directors and acting Guardians, the Monies to be collected and levied, or to obey such Order or Orders of the said Directors and acting Guardians, every such Churchwarden or Overseer, 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 Churchwardens or Overseers, so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such General Quarterly Meeting, or shall not shew sufficient Cause to justify himself or themselves, but shall, in the Judgement of the said Directors and acting Guardians, assembled at such General Quarterly Meeting, be adjudged guilty of Refusal or Neglect in raising and levying the Sums to be assessed, as aforesaid, or of disobeying such Order or Orders; that then, and in every such Case, every such Person or Persons so offending shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Justice of the Peace for the said County of Norfolk; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Corporation, and added to the Common Stock; but if any such Churchwarden or Overseer so offending, and convicted as aforesaid, shall think himself or themselves aggrieved, it shall and may be lawful for every such Churchwarden and Overseer to appeal to the next Quarter

Churchwardens to assist Directors in the Execution of the Act;

and in case of Refusal or Neglect to levy Money, *etc.* forfeit 5*l.* each.

Forfeitures to be added to the Common Stock.

Power of appeal to the Justices.

ter Sessions to be holden for the said County, and the Justices of the Peace for the said County, assembled at the said Sessions, shall and may hear and determine such Appeal, and may mitigate or set aside such Penalties, in such Manner as they shall think proper; and the Determination of the said Justices, at such Quarter Sessions, shall be final, without any other Appeal.

Determination of the Justices to be final.

Penalty of 5*l.* for not holding Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted, That if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall neglect or refuse to hold such General Quarterly Meetings, every Director and acting Guardian failing in his Duty therein, shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Order of the next General Quarter Sessions for the said County of Norfolk to be holden for the Division wherein the said Hundreds lie, unless such Directors and acting Guardians shall at such Sessions shew just Cause to the contrary: And if a sufficient Number of the said Directors and acting Guardians shall not attend at any such Quarterly Meetings, or at an Adjournment thereof, to be held within Ten Days after such Quarterly Meetings, (and which they are hereby impowered to adjourn accordingly), the necessary Rates for the Purposes of this Act shall be made by any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County in the said several Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, in the said Hundreds; and in case no such Rates shall be made within Thirty Days next after the Time such Quarterly Meetings should have been held, the same Rates shall be raised and assessed in the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, in the said Hundreds, by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers thereof for the then Quarter as was raised the preceding Quarter, and shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians for the Time being, and shall be collected and recovered as the other Assessments to be made by the said Directors and Guardians are to be collected and recovered.

Justices to make the necessary Rates, if Directors, &c. neglect to attend Meetings;

and to be paid to the Treasurer.

Persons willing to remove to have Certificates from the Directors.

And be it further enacted, That after the said Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians, the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any of the said

Meetings, shall grant Certificates, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, to and with any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds, and who shall be willing to remove, or who shall have removed from one Parish to another within the said Hundreds; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians at any of the said Meetings, at their Discretion, to grant Certificates, under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, to and with any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in the said Hundreds, and who shall be willing to remove, or who shall have removed, out of the said Hundreds and Parishes; which Certificates under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, attested by One credible Witness, shall be as good and valid, to all Intents and Purposes, as Certificates now granted by Law are; and no Certificate whatsoever, granted by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in the said Hundreds, after the passing of this Act, shall be valid, or of any Effect, any Law, Statute, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

No other Certificates to be valid.

And be it further enacted, That as soon as the said Poor are under the Government of the said Corporation, all Certificates with any Person or Persons, which shall have been delivered to, and are then in the Custody of the respective Parochial Officers within the said Hundreds, shall be immediately delivered to the said Directors and acting Guardians; and all Certificates which thereafter shall be delivered to the Parochial Officers within the said Hundreds, by Persons coming to reside therein, shall, within Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof by the respective Parish Officers within the said Hundreds, be delivered to the said Directors and acting Guardians for the Time being, who shall cause the same to be filed by the Clerk of the said Corporation, so that Recourse may be had thereto when necessary.

All former Certificates to be delivered to the Directors,

and to be filed by the Clerk.

And be it further enacted, That if the Parishioners of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundreds, shall suffer any Person or Persons to inhabit or reside

If any Parish suffer Persons to reside, whose legal Settlement is not within any of the Hundreds, &c.

reſide within any ſuch Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place, whoſe legal Settlement is not in the ſaid Hundreds, without producing and delivering to them a Certificate from the Place of his, her, or their laſt legal Settlement, or giving Notice to the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians at their weekly Meeting of ſuch Perſon or Perſons coming to inhabit or reſide within ſuch Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place, without producing and delivering a Certificate as aforeſaid, within Twenty-one Days next after ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall come to inhabit or reſide within any ſuch Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place, and ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall become chargeable to ſuch Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place, that then the whole Charge and Expence occaſioned by ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall be defrayed by the Inhabitants of ſuch Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place, without the Aſſiſtance of the ſaid Corporation; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

If ſuch Perſons become chargeable, that Pariſh to bear the Expence.

Bonds already given for indemnifying Pariſhes from the Charges of Baſtard Children to be delivered to the Directors Officers.

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds already given to Parochial Officers, or others, within the ſaid Hundreds, for indemnifying Pariſhes, Hamlets, or Places, from the Charges that may ariſe from Baſtard Children, ſhall be delivered by ſuch reſpective Officers to the ſaid Directors and acting Guardians; and it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Corporation to ſue on ſuch Bonds in their own Name, and they ſhall recover the Penalties thereof, the ſame as if ſuch Bonds had been originally given or made to them; and all Bonds which ſhall hereafter be given or made for indemnifying the ſaid Hundreds, or any Pariſh, Hamlet, or Place therein, againſt Baſtard Children, or againſt any other Charge which may concern the ſaid Hundreds, relating to the Poor thereof, ſhall be made to the ſaid Guardians of the Poor incorporated by this Act.

Bonds hereafter given to be made to the Guardians.

All voluntary Contributions, *etc.* to be paid to the Treaſurer.

How to be applied.

And be it further enacted, That all voluntary Contributions, Gifts, and Bequeſts, which well-diſpoſed and charitable Perſons ſhall think proper to make towards the carrying on the good Purpoſes of this Act, ſhall be paid to the Treaſurer of the ſaid Corporation for the Time being; and ſhall be applied and diſpoſed of for

the Maintenance, Clothing, and Accommodation of the Poor, as the Donor or Donors, Contributor or Contributors, shall direct and appoint; and if no particular Direction or Appointment shall be given or made, touching the Application thereof, 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 Donors and Contributors, with the Amount of the Sums given, shall be affixed on some conspicuous Part of the said House or Houses.

Names of Donors, *etc.* to be put up.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall, before the Poor are received into any such House or Houses, appoint a Governor or Steward, and a Matron; which said Governor or Steward, and Matron, shall be Members of the Church of England, to attend and superintend the Poor in the said House or Houses.

Steward and Matron to be appointed before the Poor are received.

And be it further enacted, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting, may appoint a Clergyman of the Church of England to instruct the poor Persons and Children in the said House in the Principles of the Christian Religion, baptize the Children, bury the Dead, and perform the other Offices of his Function in the said House or Houses; and the said Directors and acting Guardians, shall make such Allowances and Salaries to such Clergyman, Governor or Steward, and Matron, for their Pains and Trouble therein, as the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper; and shall and may, from Time to Time, displace and discharge the said Governor or Steward, Matron, and Clergyman, or any of them, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians at any General Quarterly Meeting shall seem meet, and appoint others in the Room and Stead of him, her, or them, so discharged.

Clergyman may be appointed.

Directors to make Allowances to such Clergyman, Steward, *etc.* as they shall think proper and may displace them, and appoint others.

And be it further enacted, That if any poor Person, maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses, shall be guilty of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour, or shall refuse or neglect to perform the Work

How the Poor maintained and relieved may be punished for indecent Behaviour, *etc.*

or Service which he, she, or they, shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, (such Work or Service being suited to his, her, or their Age, Strength, and Ability), every such Offender, if a Child under the Age of Twelve Years, shall and may be punished by moderate Correction, or if such Offender shall be above the Age of Twelve Years, then either by Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet; and being guilty of prophane Cursing, or Swearing, or Drunkenness, by being set in the Stocks, to be provided for the Purpose, for any Time not exceeding Six Hours: Such respective Punishments to be inflicted by Order of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians present at the Weekly Meetings.

Apparel of the Poor to be the Property of the Corporation.

And be it further enacted, That the Apparel with which the Poor who shall be maintained by the said Guardians shall be clothed shall be the Property of the said Guardians, and shall be, remain, continue, and be deemed and taken to be, the Property of the said Corporation:

How the Poor may be punished, who shall purloin Materials, &c. or pawn their Clothes.

And in case any of the Poor, maintained by the said Guardians, shall purloin, sell, or pawn, any of the Materials, Furniture, or Implements of Work, or other Effects entrusted to them, and belonging to the said Corporation, or shall sell or pawn any of their Clothes or Apparel; or in case any Person or Persons shall take away from the said House or Houses any Clothes or Apparel provided by the said Corporation, without the Consent of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians, present at a Weekly Meeting, upon Complaint being made thereof before any Justice of the Peace for the said County by any of the said Guardians, or by the Governor of the said House or Houses for the Time being, such Justice of the Peace is hereby required to issue his Warrant for the apprehending such Offender; and such Offender being thereof convicted before such Justice, on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, (which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered to administer), or by the Confession of the Offender, for the First Offence such Offender shall be sent to the House of Correction for the said County, and be privately whipped by the Keeper of

of the said House of Correction, or by some Person appointed by such Keeper, and then discharged the said House of Correction; and for the Second and every other Offence, every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of Felony; and being thereof legally convicted, shall and may suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws in being.

Persons buying, &c. any Clothes belonging to the Poor, or receiving any Materials, to be imprisoned not more than 6 Months, nor less than one Month;

And be it further enacted, That in case any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, receive into Pawn, or secrete, any of the Clothes or Wearing Apparel of any of the Poor, who shall at any Time be received into and maintained in the said House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act; or any of the Goods, Materials, or Implements, provided or furnished to be worked up, manufactured, or used in the said House or Houses, or any of the Goods or Furniture of the said House or Houses, or buy or receive any of the Provisions provided for the Poor within the said House or Houses; it shall and may be lawful for any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County of Norfolk, and he and they is and are hereby authorised and required, upon Complaint made thereof upon the Oath of any of the said Guardians, or of the Governor of the said House or Houses, (which Oath such Justice or Justices is and are hereby impowered to administer), to issue his Warrant for the apprehending such Person or Persons; and such Justice or Justices may, if he or they think proper, commit such Person or Persons to the House of Correction for the said County, there to remain until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County; and in case such Person or Persons, at the said Sessions, shall be convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, such Person or Persons shall, for the First Offence, be sent to the Common Gaol for the said County of Norfolk, for any Time not exceeding Six Calendar Months, nor less than One Calendar Month; and for the Second and every other Offence, such Offender or Offenders shall and may suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws now in being.

and for a Second Offence to be punished as Persons guilty of Petit Larceny.

Rewards to be distributed to the industrious and skilful, according to their Work;

And to the End that all the poor People in the said House or Houses may be encouraged to apply themselves to such Tasks in which they may be employed with Diligence, 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 Quality 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 said Governor and Matron are hereby strictly enjoined to prohibit and prevent.

but no Part of such Money to be spent on unwholesome Liquors.

How the Profits of the Work are to be applied.

And be it further enacted, 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 Hundreds.

Directors may contract with Persons for employing the Poor.

Provided always, That it shall 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 the Rules and Regulations 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, 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.

No Person to enter into any Contract during the Time he shall be a Director, &c.

And be it further enacted, That no Person shall enter into any Contract or Agreement, either in his own

Name, or by any Agent or Servant on his Account, or give Security for the Performance of any Contract or Agreement, for furnishing or providing any Thing for the said Corporation, or for the Use of the Poor under and by virtue of this Act, or for employing the Poor to be maintained in the said House, (except in Husbandry), during such Time as he shall act as a Director or acting Guardian; and that no Person shall be capable of being a Director or acting Guardian, until the Expiration of Six Calendar Months from the Time of settling his Account, and receiving the Balance of any Money due to him for any Thing furnished or provided for or on Account of the said Poor, or otherwise, by virtue of this Act, any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

and no Person to be a Director, *etc.* till Six Months after settling his Account for any Thing furnished.

Provided always, That nothing herein-before contained shall be construed to incapacitate or disqualify any Person from acting either as a Director or acting Guardian on Account of selling or granting any Lands to the said Corporation, or who shall or may lend or advance any Money to the said Corporation for the Purposes of this Act.

Proviso respecting Persons granting or selling Lands.

And be it further enacted, That if any Governor or other Officer appointed, or Matron, or other Person whatsoever, employed by the said Directors and 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 or her 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 by Distress and Sale, in such Manner as the Penalties or 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

How any Governor, Matron, *etc.* may be punished, if found guilty of embezzling Money or Effects belonging to the Corporation.

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 Time not exceeding Six Calendar Months, nor less than One Calendar Month.

Lands or Buildings, purchased for the Purposes of this Act, not to be assessed at a higher Rent than at the Time of Purchase.

And be it further enacted, That in all Cases relating to the Rates, Taxes, and Levies, to be made for any Parish, Hamlet, and Place, wherein any Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, which shall be purchased for the Purposes of this Act, shall be situate, such Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, shall not be assessed to the Land Tax or Parish Rates at a higher Value or Rent than the Value thereof at the Time of such Purchase, and that the Houses to be provided for the Poor under this Act shall not be taxed or assessed to any House or Window Tax, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Justices to proceed on Complaint of Directors, in same Manner, as on Complaint of Churchwardens.

And be it further enacted, That in all Cases not herein otherwise provided for, 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, Hamlet, or Place, in the said Hundreds, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice or Justices, and he or they are hereby required to proceed on the Complaint of any the said Directors or acting Guardians, or of the said Governor for the Time being, in such and the like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had not been made, and as if such Complaint had been made by any such Churchwarden or Overseer.

Application of Forfeitures.

And be it further enacted, That all Fines and Forfeitures arising for any Offences committed in the said Hundreds, where the Whole or any Part thereof is given to the Poor of any Parish, or for any Offences in this Act, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, for the Use of the said Corporation.

Expences of this Act how to be paid.

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

Guardians, &c. to bear their own Expences.

And be it further enacted, that the Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, shall respectively bear and

pay their own Expences, at every Meeting appointed by this Act.

All Questions at Meetings, not provided for by this Act, to be determined by the Majority present.

And be it further enacted, That at the said First and at every subsequent Meeting of the said Guardians, or any Committees of the said Directors and Guardians, all Questions, which are not otherwise directed by this Act, shall be determined by a Majority of the said Guardians and Directors present at every such Meeting; and in Cases of Equality of Votes, the Chairman of such Meeting or Committee shall have the casting Vote.

Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into the said House or Houses, to be liable to the Penalties of 24 *Geo.* II.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors into the said House or Houses, to be provided or erected as aforesaid, such Person or Persons shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be, subject 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, intituled An Act for granting to His Majesty an additional Duty upon Spirituous Liquors, and upon Licences for retailing the same; and for repealing the Act of the Twentieth Year of His said late Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for granting a Duty to His Majesty to be paid by Distillers upon Licences to be taken out by them for retailing Spirituous Liquors*; and for the more effectually restraining the retailing of distilled Spirituous Liquors; and for allowing a Drawback upon the Exportation of *British*-made Spirits; and that the Parish of *Saint Mary-le-bone*, in the County of *Middlesex*, shall be under the Inspection of the Head Office of Excise; directed to be inflicted on Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into Prisons or Gaols.

Warrants issued by Justices, may be directed to the Governor, *etc.*

And be it further enacted, That Warrants issued by any Justice or Justices of the Peace relating to the Poor of the said Hundreds, or to the putting this Act into Execution, may be directed to the said Governor for the Time being, as well as to the Constables, or other Peace Officer or Officers of any Parish or Place where the same is to be executed; and such Governor is hereby authorised and required to execute such Warrant or Warrants, and all Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting the said Governor in the Execution of such

Warrants,

Warrants, in the same Manner as if such Warrants had been executed by a Constable, or other Peace Officer.

Limitation of Actions. And be it further enacted, 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 Norfolk and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action

General Issue. 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, 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

Treble Costs. shall recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

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 whomsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.