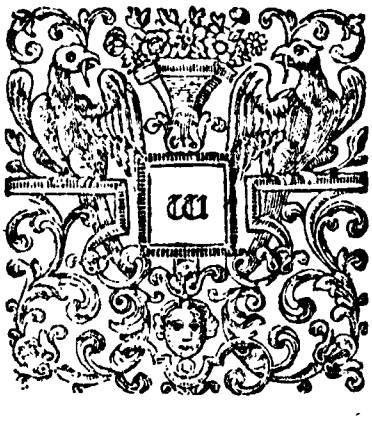
Anno tertio

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor within the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal Green*, in the County of *Middlesex*.



WHEREAS the Poor in the Parish of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green, in the County of Middlesex, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by the said Parish: And whereas the granting of proper Powers, for the better governing, maintaining, and regulating the said Poor, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief of such as by Age or Infirmities are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the able and industrious, to the proper Correction and Punishment of the profligate and idle, and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Industry; and thereby the said Poor, instead of being wholly supported by the Inhabitants of the said Parish, and being suffered to live in Idleness and Debauchery, may be brought to contribute to the Support and Relief mutually of each other, and be of some Advantage and Credit to the Community: 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 by the Authority of Preamble.

Meetings of Churchwardens, &c.

the ſame, That from and after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty three, the Churchwardens Overſeers of Poor, and Veſtrymen of the ſaid Pariſh of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green, are hereby authorized and required to aſſemble and meet together, in the Veſtry Room belonging to the ſaid Pariſh Church, for the firſt Time, on the Firſt Tueſday in July, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty three, and afterwards annually on Eaſter Tueſday, or within Twenty Days next after, or oftner, from time to time, as Occaſion ſhall require; and ſhall then and there, from time to time, aſcertain what Monies ſhall be aſſeſſed within the Limits of the ſaid Pariſh, for the Relief and Employment of the Poor within the ſaid Pariſh, and for the other Purpoſes of this Act.

for aſcertaining the Monies neceſſary to be raiſed.

And whereas by Act of Parliament, made and paſſed in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King George the Second, intituled, An Act to make the Hamlet of *Bethnal Green*, in the Pariſh of *Saint Dunſtan Stepney*, in the County of *Middleſex*, a ſeparate and diſtinct Pariſh, and for erecting a Pariſh Church therein; it is (among other Things) enacted, That the Rector of the ſaid Pariſh Church, and the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of the ſaid new intended 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 Hamlet, or of the ſaid new intended Pariſh, and ſhall pay Two Shillings per Month, and all others who ſhall pay Four Shillings per Month, for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid Hamlet, for his own Dwelling-houſe or Lands, and no others, ſhall be Veſtrymen for the time being of the ſaid new intended Pariſh: And whereas it will be expedient for the more effectual Execution of this Act, that the Veſtry ſhould be conſtituted under other Qualifications; therefore, be it enacted, That from and after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty three, ſo much of the laſt-mentioned Act, as is above recited, ſhall be, and is hereby repealed; and that from and after the ſaid Twenty fourth Day of June, 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

Qualification of Veſtrymen.

ing

ing 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 Churchwardens of the said Parish for the time being.

For making the Rates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, shall meet together in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, within Thirty Days next after the said Sums of Money shall have been so ascertained as aforesaid, or oftner, from time to time, as Occasion shall require; and, at such Meeting or Meetings, the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them so met, shall, and they are hereby required to make a general Pound Rate or Assessment for the Relief and Employment of the Poor in the said Parish, upon all and every Person and Persons who do and shall inhabit, hold, occupy, or enjoy, any Land, House, Shop, Warehouse, or any other Building within the said Parish, and on every other Person who by Law is chargeable and assessable for and towards the Relief of the Poor within the said Parish; the said Rate to be assessed according to the following Proportions; that is to say, All Land at the full annual Rent or Value; all Houses and Buildings of the yearly Rent or Value of Fifteen Pounds or upwards, at Three Fourths of such Rent or Value; all Houses and Buildings of the yearly Rent or Value of Ten Pounds, or upwards, and under Fifteen Pounds, at Two Thirds of such Rent or Value; all Houses and Buildings of the yearly Rent or Value of Eight Pounds, or upwards, and under Ten Pounds, at One Half of such Rent or Value; and all Houses and Buildings of the yearly Rent or Value of Five Pounds, and upwards, and under Eight Pounds, at One Third of such Rent or Value: All which Rates or Assessments shall be entered in a Book or Books to be provided for that Purpose, wherein there shall be Four distinct Columns for the Four Quarters of the Year, and a Fifth for the Sum Total of the said Four Quarters.

Subjecting Lodgers to the Payment of Rates, and allowing them to deduct the Money out of their Rent, and to prevent their gaining Settlements by such Payments.

And whereas there are divers Houses in the said Parish which are let out in separate Apartments, and other Houses let ready furnished to Lodgers, whereby the Payment of the said Rate or Assessment may be evaded; for Remedy whereof, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person (whether Landlord or Tenant) who shall let out his or her House in separate Apartments, or ready furnished, to a Lodger or Lodgers, shall, for the several Purposes of this Act, be deemed and taken to be the Occupier thereof, and may be rated or assessed accordingly,

and shall be liable and subject to the Payment of the Sum so raised or assessed.

Rate may be levied on the Goods of the Persons renting or occupying separate Apartments, or ready furnished Houses; the same to be deducted out of the Rent.

Provided always, That the Goods and Chattles of each and every Person renting or occupying any separate Apartment in such House, or renting or occupying any ready furnished House, shall be liable to be distrained and sold for the Payment of the said Rate or Assessment; and that each and every Person who shall pay such Rate or Assessment, so charged on his or her respective Landlord or Landlords, or upon whose Goods or Chattles the same shall be levied in pursuance of this Act, shall and may deduct the same from and out of the next Rent due and payable to his, her, or their respective Landlord or Landlords so letting out the same; and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to his or her said Landlord or Landlords, for so much Money as he or she shall have so paid, or shall have been levied on his or her Goods and Chattles, in pursuance of this Act.

None to gain a Settlement by such Payment.

Provided nevertheless, That no Person or Persons shall by the Payment of such Rate or Assessment, so rated or assessed on his, her, or their respective Landlord or Landlords, or by the same being levied on his, her, or their Goods and Chattles, be deemed thereby to have acquired any Settlement within the said Parish; any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Houses let in separate Apartments shall be assessed at the clear yearly Rents;

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all such Houses as shall be let out by the Owners or Leaseholders thereof, into separate Apartments, shall be assessed towards this Rate, at the clear yearly Rents thereof, after deducting so much out of the annual Rent of such House or Houses as such Owners or Leaseholders shall actually pay for or on account of the Tenants Tares for the said House or Houses; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

but Land at no more than 3 *l. per Annum per* Acre.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Land within the said Parish, shall be assessed at any greater Sum, than after the Rate of Five Pounds per Acre per Annum, towards the Rate by this Act authorized to be collected, and so in Proportion for any greater or less Quantity than an Acre.

Churchwardens, &c. may appoint Collectors;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish, or the major Part of them, assembled at any publick Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, shall and may chuse and appoint One or more fit Person or Persons, to be Collector or Collectors of the said Rates or Assessments, to be raised and levied by virtue of this Act, and shall and may, from

time

time to time, remove such Collector or Collectors, and appoint such other Person or Persons in his or their Room and Stead, as they shall think proper; and shall and may, out of such Rates or Assessments, make such Allowance or Allowances to such Collector or Collectors, for his or their Trouble in collecting the same, or otherwise, as they the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, so assembled as aforesaid, shall think fit, not exceeding the annual Sum of Forty Pounds in the Whole, or in Proportion for any less Time than a Year; and are hereby required to take such Security of such Collector or Collectors, for the faithful accounting for all such Monies as he or they shall receive by virtue of the said Office, as to the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, so assembled, shall seem meet: And such Collector and Collectors shall, and he and they is and are hereby impowered and required to collect the said Rate, by Four equal quarterly Payments, and Once in every Month, or oftner, if required, pay over the Monies so by him or them collected, to the Treasurer for the time being, or to such Person or Persons as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, present at a publick Meeting as aforesaid, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorize and appoint to receive the same: And the said Collector or Collectors shall make up and render to the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, so assembled as aforesaid, in the Week next before Easter, in every Year (or oftner, if thereunto required) a full, true, and perfect Account in Writing, of all the Monies so collected and received by him or them, by virtue of this Act; and if any such Collector shall not make and render such Account, and make Payment as aforesaid, or shall not deliver to the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, within Ten Days after being thereunto required by any Nine or more of them, as aforesaid, all Books, Papers, and Writings, in his Custody or Power, relating to the Execution of this Act; then, and in either of the Cases aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any Two Justices of the Peace for the County or Place wherein the Offender shall be or reside, upon Complaint made to them by any Two of the Churchwardens or Overseers, or any Five or more Vestrymen of the said Parish, and on Proof thereof, by the Oath of Two or more of them (which Oath the said Justices are hereby authorized and impowered to administer) by

Warrant

may remove them, and appoint others, and allow them Salaries.

Collectors to give Security.

Collectors to account.

On Refusal, Justices to enquire into the Default.

and commit the Offender, until Payment

Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit such Person to the Common Gaol for the County or Place where such Offender shall reside or be apprehended, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall have given and make a true and perfect Account and Payment as aforesaid, and until such Money, as upon the said Account shall appear to be remaining in his Hands, shall be paid and satisfied by him, or by his Security, or until he or they shall have compounded for the same.

or Composition made.

Churchwardens, &c. may appoint Treasurers;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them assembled at a publick Meeting, as aforesaid, shall and may yearly and every Year appoint One or more Treasurer or Treasurers for the Receipt of the Monies to be collected, raised, or received for the Purposes of this Act, and from time to time, as they shall think necessary, remove such Treasurer or Treasurers, and appoint such other Person or Persons in his or their Stead, as they the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall think proper; which Treasurer and Treasurers is and are hereby directed to account yearly (or oftner if thereunto required) with the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them so assembled as aforesaid, for all the Monies by him or them received and paid pursuant to the Directions of this Act, and to pay such Money, as upon the Balance of the said Account shall appear to be remaining in his or their Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or the major Part of them, at any publick Meeting as aforesaid, shall authorize and appoint to receive the same, to be applied to and for the several Uses and Purposes for which the same was collected, raised, received, or levied; and in Default of rendering and making such Account and Payment as aforesaid, such Treasurer or Treasurers shall be liable to such Penalties as Overseers of the Poor in like Cases are liable unto.

who are to account,

or be punished.

Churchwardens, &c. to appoint Governors of the Poor;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, 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,

men, 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*; which said Governors and Directors shall and may, from time to time, make such Rules, Orders, and Regulations for the better Disposition of such Monies as shall be raised and received for the Purposes of this Act, as to them, or any Five or more of them, at a Meeting of the said Governors and Directors, shall appear necessary or expedient; but no such Rules, Orders, or Regulations shall be in Force, until confirmed by the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestry of the said Parish, at a publick Meeting assembled as aforesaid, or the major Part of them who shall so assemble; nor shall any such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, when made and confirmed, be repealed or altered, except at a publick Meeting of the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the said Parish.

who are to make Rules and Orders (but not to be repugnant to the Laws of the Realm)

Provided always, That such Rules, Orders, and Regulations, be not repugnant to the Laws of this Realm.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors of the Poor, or any Five or more of them, shall, and they are hereby impowered, by Writing, under their Hands, to order and direct the said Treasurer or Treasurers, from time to time, to pay all such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall think necessary for the Purposes of this Act; and the said Treasurer or Treasurers are hereby authorized and required to pay the same, from time to time, accordingly; which Sum or Sums so paid, shall be allowed him or them, in his or their Accounts respectively.

and direct the Application of the Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Treasurer, Governor, Director, or Overseer of the Poor, shall provide, furnish, or supply, for his or their own Profit, any Goods, Materials, or Provisions for the Use of the Workhouse or Workhouses erected, or to be erected or provided in the said Parish, for the Support, Maintenance, or Employment of the Poor, during the Time of his being such Treasurer, Governor, Director, or Overseer.

Governors, &c. not to furnish Goods, &c. for the Use of the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons to contribute, advance, and pay into the Hands of the said Treasurer or Treasurers, so to be annually appointed as aforesaid, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding, in the Whole, the Sum of Two thousand Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of One or

5000 *l.* to be raised by Annuities.

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 Nine Pounds per Annum for every One hundred Pounds, and so in Proportion for any greater or less Sum to be advanced and paid as aforesaid; and shall be payable and paid by the said Treasurer or Treasurers, as herein after directed, in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, or in such Place in the said Parish as he or they shall for that Purpose appoint, by Four equal quarterly Payments in the Year, the first of such Payments to begin and be made to the respective Purchasers, and their Assigns, at the Expiration of the first Three Calendar Months next after Payment of his or her respective Purchase Money; which Annuities shall be publickly sold by the said Governors and Directors of the Poor, in the Vestry Room or Workhouse belonging to the said Parish, to the best Bidder for the same, on Twenty one Days Notice thereof being first given in the London Gazette, or other publick News Paper, and a like Notice affixed upon the Front Door of the said Parish Church, signifying such Intention.

at 9 *l. per Cent. per Ann.*

21 Days Notice thereof to be given.

For paying Annuities.

And, for the better ascertaining and regulating the Payment of the said Annuities; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors, or any Five or more of them, shall, by Warrants under their Hands and Seals (directed to such Person or Persons as shall be chosen and appointed Treasurer and Treasurers, in Manner herein before mentioned) order and direct, from time to time, the several quarterly Payments of the said Annuities to the respective Proprietors, as the same shall become due; which said Treasurer or Treasurers is and are hereby required, upon Receipt of such Warrant or Warrants, forthwith to pay the same out of the first Monies which shall be in his or their Hands in pursuance of this Act, and arising by the said Rate or Rates; which Warrants shall be allowed in Account to him or them, on making up his or their Accounts with the Vestrymen, as herein after mentioned.

Subscribers Names to be entered in a Book.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall be provided by the said Governors and Directors, and kept in the Vestry Room of the said Parish Church, or in such Place in the said Parish as they the said Governors and Directors, or any Five or more of them, shall appoint, a Book or Books, in which shall be fairly

fairly written, in Words at Length, the Names and Sirnames with the proper Additions and Places of Abode of all such Persons who shall be Purchasers of any of the Annuities aforesaid, and of all Persons by whose Hands the said Purchasers shall pay in any Sum or Sums of Money upon the Credit of this Act; and also the Sum and Sums so paid for the Purchase of such Annuity or Annuities, and the respective Days of Payment thereof; and also an Account of the Interest that shall be paid to the said Annuitant or Annuitants, from time to time, and by whom received; to which Book and Books it shall be lawful for the said respective Purchasers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, Agent or Agents, and to and for any Person or Persons, who shall be liable to pay any Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act, from time to time, and at all reasonable Times, to have Recourse to and inspect the same, without Fee or Reward.

Annuities charged on the Rates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Annuities so to be purchased under and 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 this Act; and all and every the Contributor and Contributors upon the Credit of this Act, duly paying the Consideration or Purchase Money for any such Annuities as aforesaid, or such Person or Persons as he, she, or they shall appoint his, her, or their respective Assigns, shall have, receive, and enjoy, and be intitled, by virtue of this Act, to have, receive, and enjoy the said respective Annuity or Annuities, during the Term of the natural Life of the Person to be nominated by each such Purchaser or Contributor as abovementioned; and that all and every such Purchaser and Purchasers, and their Assigns respectively, shall have good, sure, absolute, indefeazable Personal Estates and Interest in the Annuities so by them respectively purchased, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act; and that none of the said Annuities shall be subject or liable to the Tax charged upon Lands by Authority of Parliament, or to any other parliamentary or parochial Tax.

As Money is paid in Part of Contributions, Receipts to be given.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Contributor upon this Act, for the Purchase of any such Annuity or Annuities as aforesaid, his, her, or their Assigns, upon Payment of the Consideration or Purchase Money for the same, or any Part or Proportion thereof, shall have One or more Receipt or Receipts from the Person or Persons receiving the same, importing the Receipt of so much Purchase Money as shall be so paid;

On Payment of the Whole, Annuitant to have an Order on Parchment.

paid; and upon Payment of the Remainder of such Purchase Money, if any, every such Contributor, his or her Assigns respectively, shall have an Order on Parchment or Vellum, for Payment of the said Annuity or Annuities for and during the Life of such Person as shall be nominated by such Contributor or Purchaser as aforesaid; which Order shall be signed by the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, or any Nine or more of them, at any Meeting assembled, such Nine being a major Part of them assembled at such Meeting; and after signing thereof, the same shall be firm, good, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to the Purport and true Meaning thereof, and of this Act.

Annuities may be assigned.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Purchaser or Purchasers of any such Annuity or Annuities as aforesaid, and his, her, or their Executors, Administrators or Assigns, at any Time or Times, by Writing under his, her, or their Hands and Seals (without any Stamp thereon) to assign such Annuity or Annuities, or any Part thereof, or Interest therein, to any Person or Persons whatsoever; and so toties quoties; and a Memorandum or Entry of all such Assignments, and of the respective Days the same were brought to be so entered, shall be made in a Book, which is hereby required to be kept for that Purpose, at the Charge of the said Governors and Directors, in the Vestry Room belonging to the said Parish Church, or in such Room or Place as shall be appointed in the said Parish for that Purpose; which Entry or Memorandum shall be made gratis, and may at all seasonable Times be inspected by any Person or Persons interested therein.

Assignment not to be good, till enter'd.

Provided always, That no such Assignment shall be deemed good and effectual, until such Memorandum or Entry shall be made in the said Book in Manner aforesaid.

For providing a Workhouse.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors, or any Nine or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority, and they are hereby authorized and impowered to purchase or hire by Lease, for no less Term than Ninety nine Years, any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and to alter, repair, and furnish any Buildings that shall be standing on the same, for the better receiving, employing, and maintaining the Poor of the said Parish, or may erect thereon One or more House or Houses for the like Purpose, and provide Furniture for the same, or for such Workhouse or Workhouses as may be hired in Manner

herein

herein after mentioned; and by and out of the Monies received of the Contributor or Contributors for the Purchase of such Annuities, or by or out of any other Sum or Sums of Money which shall arise by virtue of this Act, shall pay and satisfy the Purchase Money for the same, and all necessary Charges relating thereto, as also all Money which shall be justly due to the Artificers, Workmen, or others employed in or about altering, repairing, or furnishing the said House or Houses, or any Matter or Thing relating thereto.

Contracts, &c. to be entered in Books.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governors and Directors shall cause all Contracts made with or by the Artificers and Workmen, or others employed or to be employed in or about the said Workhouse or Workhouses, and all Receipts, Payments, Debts, and Credits, and any Matter or Thing relating thereto, and all other their Proceedings concerning the same, to be fairly written and entered in a Book or Books to be provided for those Purposes.

Governors to make Orders for maintaining and employing the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Governors and Directors, or any Five or more of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered, from time to time, to issue such Orders as they shall think proper, for maintaining, regulating, and employing the Poor of the said Parish, in any Workhouse or Workhouses, erected or to be erected, or provided in the said Parish, and to purchase Provisions and Materials for those Purposes, and to take the Benefit of the Work, Labour, and Service of every such Person or Persons who shall be kept and maintained in such House or Houses, or otherwise, by virtue of this Act, to be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

For regulating the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any poor Person, maintained in any Workhouse or Workhouses belonging to the said Parish, shall imbezzle or purloin any Part of the Apparel provided for any of the Poor, or of the Goods or Provisions provided for, or belonging to the said Workhouse or Workhouses, or any Materials for Work, or be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, Drunkenness, or of any lewd, immoral, or indecent Behaviour, or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, it shall and may be lawful to and for any Five Governors and Directors, to cause such Person or Persons so offending, to be punished in such Workhouse, either by Confinement, distinguishing them in Dress, Diet, or such other Method as may best tend to remedy such Offences for the future.

For receiving deserted Children.

a Number to further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Governors, or any One or more of them, to cause such Child or Children as he or they shall judge to be under the Age of Twelve Years, who shall be found wandering or begging in the said Parish of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green, to be taken and sent to any of the Workhouses belonging to the said Parish, there to be detained and employed, until he or she shall attain (or in case his or her Age cannot be ascertained, until he or she shall be adjudged, by any Five or more of the said Governors and Directors, to have attained) the Age of Twenty one Years, or be married, unless sooner discharged by the said Governors and Directors, or any Five or more of them, or by due Course of Law: and also, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Governors, or any One or more of them, to cause such Person or Persons as shall be found wandering or begging, or misbehaving themselves in the said Parish, to be sent to the said Workhouses, there to be detained and employed for so long Time as the said Churchwardens, Overseers and Governors, or any Five or more of them, shall think proper, or until they shall be discharged by due Course of Law; and in case of any Misbehaviour of any such Person, the same Methods of Punishment may be used with them as are herein before directed to be used with respect to the Poor within the said Workhouses.

How long to be kept.

For taking up the wandering Poor.

Not to gain a Settlement by being so detained.

Provided always, That no such Child or Children, or other Person or Persons, so taken and sent to the said Workhouse, shall gain any Settlement by residing therein.

How the Rates is to be recovered.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Rates or Assessments by this Act authorized to be collected, shall and may, on Refusal to pay the same, be recovered in such Manner as the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor are directed to be recovered, by an Act made in the Forty third Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth for the Relief of the Poor, or by any subsequent Act or Acts relating to the Relief of the Poor; which said several Methods of recovering the said Rates or Assessments for the Relief of the Poor, shall, and they are hereby declared to be legal Methods and Ways of enforcing the Payment of the Rates or Assessments, directed to be made in pursuance of this Act, as fully and effectually as if such Methods were repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act.

And

And it is hereby further enacted, That when and as often as any Diſtreſs ſhall be made for Nonpayment of any of the ſaid Rates hereby directed to be made, or any Part thereof, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Perſon or Perſons making ſuch Diſtreſs, to raiſe and levy the reaſonable Charges of making ſuch Diſtreſs, and ſelling and diſpoſing of the ſame, over and above the Sum of Money due upon the Rate or Rates for which ſuch Diſtreſs ſhall be taken. Charges of Diſtreſs and Sale to be levied at the Time of levying the Rates.

Provided nevertheleſs, and be it enacted, That in caſe any Perſon whatſoever ſhall think him or herſelf aggrieved, by any Thing done by virtue of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Perſon to appeal to Two or more Juſtices of the Peace of the County of Middleſex, reſiding in the Tower Diviſion, and acting for the ſame, who ſhall have Power, and they are hereby authorized to hear and determine the ſaid Complaint, and, if they ſee juſt Cauſe, to order the Perſon ſo appealing to be relieved in ſuch Manner as they ſhall think proper. Allowing an Appeal to Two Juſtices of the Peace,

Provided always, That in caſe ſuch Perſon ſo appealing as aforeſaid, or the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers, or the major Part of them, ſhall be diſſatisfied with ſuch Determination, that then it ſhall and may be lawful either for the Perſon ſo appealing, or for the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor, or the major Part of them, for and on Behalf of the ſaid Pariſh, to appeal to the then next General or Quarter Seſſion of the Peace, to be holden for the County of Middleſex, which ſhall happen next after the Expiration of Fourteen Days from the ſaid Determination, upon Six Days Notice to be given by the Party appealing: And it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Juſtices aſſembled at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſion, or the major Part of them, to hear and finally determine the Matter of the ſaid Complaint, and give Coſts at their Diſcretion. and from them to the Quarter Seſſions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſeveral Laws relating to the Overſeers of the Poor, and for the Relief and providing for the Poor, ſhall continue in force, within the ſaid Pariſh of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green, except where the ſame are altered by this preſent Act; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithſtanding. Former Poors Laws to continue in force.

Provided always, That no Rate or Aſſeſſment ſhall be made for the Reliefs of the Poor of the ſaid Pariſh, other than is in and by this Act directed. Former Poors Rates aboliſhed.

And

Punishing Persons receiving Cloaths or Goods, or Materials belonging to the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, or receive into pawn, any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel of any of the Poor who shall hereafter be received into and maintained in the Workhouse of the said Parish, or who shall knowingly buy or receive into Pawn any of the Goods or Materials carried into the said Workhouse, to be wrought up, manufactured, or used by the Poor there, or any of the Goods and Furniture of the said Workhouse; every Person so offending, in any of the said Cases, and being thereof convicted by his or her own Confession, or by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any Justice of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex (which Oath such Justice is hereby authorized and required to administer) shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Forty Shillings, One Moiety whereof shall go to the Informer, and the other Moiety shall be paid to the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Purposes of this Act; and if any Offender shall not, on such Conviction, forthwith pay the said Money, the said Justice shall cause the same, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Offender, and the Overplus, after such Forfeiture and Charges of such Distress and Sale are deducted and paid, shall be returned, upon Demand, to the Owner of such Goods and Chattles; and in case sufficient Distress cannot be found, it shall be lawful for such Justice, and he is hereby authorized and required, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to cause such Offender to be committed to the House of Correction for the County of Middlesex, for any Time not exceeding One Month, unless such Forfeiture, and all reasonable Charges, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

Registering all Accounts in Books.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That an Account of the total Sums assessed, collected, and received, within the said Parish, and of all the Monies paid and disbursed for all or any of the Purposes mentioned in this Act, shall be fairly entered in a Book or Books to be provided for that Purpose, by the Vestry Clerk of the said Parish for the time being, or such other Person as the said Vestry shall appoint; and in or before the Week before Easter yearly, the same shall be examined, adjusted, and signed at a Meeting of the Vestry duly assembled, or a Committee appointed by the Vestry for that Purpose; which said Book or Books, and Accounts, shall be lodged in such proper Place as shall be appointed by the Vestry, under the Care of the Vestry Clerk, or

such

such other Person as aforesaid, and shall and may at all reasonable Times be inspected and perused by any of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, who shall desire the same, without Fee or Reward.

Collectors to verify their Accounts on Oath.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Collector and Collectors so accounting as aforesaid, shall, within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Time of the settling and adjusting his or their said Account, verify the same on Oath, before Two or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, acting for the Tower Division, as he or they shall be required so to do by the Vestry, or any Five or more of them, who shall audit and examine his or their said Account.

For giving Notice of Meetings.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Meeting shall be had or held by the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Vestrymen, and Governors or Directors of the Poor, or any of them, for the Execution of this Act, unless publick Notice be given, by One or more of the said Churchwardens, or Overseers of the Poor, or Governors of the Intention of Meeting, in the Church of the said Parish, immediately after Divine Service in the Forenoon on the Lord's Day next before such Meeting; and all such Meetings shall be held at the Vestry Room or Workhouse in the said Parish; and that the several Authorities and Powers hereby granted to the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, shall be respectively carried into Execution by the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, or the major Part of them the said Churchwardens, Overseers, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, present at such Meetings as shall be held by virtue of this Act, and not otherwise; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Vestry to defray their own Expences.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Vestrymen shall, at all Meetings to be held in pursuance of this Act, defray their own Expences.

Charges of passing this Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Expences in and about procuring and passing this Act, shall be borne, paid, and defrayed, out of the First Monies which shall be raised by virtue of this Act.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be brought or commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, or in relation to the Premisses; that in every such Case the Action shall be commenced within

within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards, and shall be laid and brought in the County of Middlesex, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Actions to be brought, 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 Authority of this Act; and if it shall appear to be so done, or if any such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County, City, or Place, then, and in such Case, the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and if upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions, or if a Verdict shall pass against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit in other Cases by Law.

General Issue.

Treble Costs.

Publick Act.

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

4

FINIS.