ANNO TRICESIMO QUARTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XVII.

An Act for regulating the Portage and Conveyance of Letters by the Carriage called *The Penny Post*.

[28th *March* 1794.]

WHEREAS every Letter ſent by the Penny Poſt from *London* or *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, or the reſpective Suburbs thereof, and delivered to any Perſon at any Place out of the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, is ſubject to the Charge of One Penny, over and above the Penny paid upon putting every ſuch Letter into the Penny Poſt Office: And whereas, towards defraying the Expence of a more frequent and ſpeedy Delivery of Letters by the Penny Poſt, it is reaſonable that Letters conveyed by the ſaid Carriage called *The Penny Poſt*, from Places out of the ſaid Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof, to Places within thoſe Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof, ſhould be charged with the Payment of an additional Penny in like Manner: 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 the ſame, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, and his Preamble.

1*d.* additional to be paid for Letters ſent by the Penny Poſt from any Place without to any Place within *London*, *Weſtminſter*, *Southwark*, and the Suburbs.

Deputy and Deputies, Officer and Officers, by him thereunto ſufficiently authorized, to demand, have, receive, and take for the Conveyance of every Letter originally ſent by the ſaid Carriage called *The Penny Poſt*, and not firſt paſſing by the General Poſt from any Place out of the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, to any Place within the ſaid Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof reſpectively, the Sum of One Penny in Addition to the Sum of One Penny now payable for the Conveyance of every ſuch Letter.

Poſtage may be paid or not on putting Letters into the Office.

II. And whereas a Penny *per* Letter for every Letter originally ſent by the Penny Poſt (and not firſt paſſing by the General Poſt), to any Place within the Delivery of the Penny Poſt is now paid on putting every ſuch Letter into a Penny Poſt Office: And whereas it may be convenient that the Poſtage of Letters ſhould be paid in One Sum, either on putting in the ſame or on Delivery thereof, at the Option of the Perſons ſending the ſame; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be optional in the Perſon and Perſons ſending any Letter or Letters originally by the Penny Poſt (and not firſt paſſing by the General Poſt), either to pay the Poſtage of every ſuch Letter or not, as he or they may think proper, on putting the ſame into any Penny Poſt Office, and that where the Poſtage ſhall be paid by the Perſon ſending the ſame, ſuch Letter ſhall be delivered free from any other Rate or Duty of Poſtage.

The following Rates to be taken where the Poſtage has not been paid on putting Letters into the Penny Poſt Office.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, and his Deputy and Deputies, Officer and Officers, to demand, have, receive, and take for the Conveyance of every Letter originally ſent by the Penny Poſt, (and not firſt paſſing by the General Poſt), the Poſtage whereof ſhall not be paid on putting the ſame into a Penny Poſt Office, the ſeveral Rates or Sums of Money herein-after mentioned; (that is to ſay),

Rates.

For the Conveyance of every Letter ſent from any Place within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, to any other Place within the ſame Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof, the Sum of One Penny:

And for the Conveyance of every Letter ſent from any Place within the ſame Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof, to any Place out of the ſame, the Sum of Two-pence;

And for the Conveyance of every Letter ſent from any Place out of the ſaid Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof reſpectively, to any Place within the ſame, or from any Place out of the ſaid Cities and Borough, and the Suburbs thereof, to any other Place out of the ſame, the Sum of Two-pence.

1*d.* to be paid on putting Letters into the Penny to be forwarded by the General Poſt.

IV. Provided always, That nothing herein contained ſhall extend to exempt Letters put into a Penny Poſt Office to be forwarded by the General Poſt, from the Payment of the Duty now chargeable thereon on putting the ſame into ſuch Penny Poſt, but that the Sum of One Penny a Letter for each Letter put into a Penny Poſt Office to be forwarded by the General Poſt, ſhall be paid upon putting the ſame into a Penny Poſt

Office as heretofore; any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in any wife notwithſtanding.

V. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Sum of One Penny *per* Letter, payable upon the Delivery of every Letter originally paſſing by the General Poſt, directed to any Perſon at any Place or Places beyond the Delivery of the Inland or Foreign Department of the General Poſt Office, and within the Delivery of the Penny Poſt, ſhall be paid on Delivery by the Penny Poſt, in the Manner directed by an Act, made and paſſed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, (intituled, *An Act to alter certain Rates of Poſtage, and to amend, explain, and enlarge ſeveral Proviſions in an Act, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Queen* Anne, *and in other Acts relating to the Revenue of the Poſt Office)*; any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

The 1*d.* for Letters paſſing originally by the General Poſt to Places out of its Limits of Delivery and within thoſe of the Penny Poſt, to be paid agreeable to 5 *Geo.* III, Cap. 25.

VI. And whereas the Conveyance of Letters by the Penny Poſt is by Law limited to Ten *Engliſh* Miles diſtant from the General Poſt Office in *London:* And whereas it may be expedient to extend the Conveyance of Letters by the ſaid Poſt beyond that Diſtance in certain Caſes; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, for the Time being, at any Time after the paſſing of this Act, at his and their Diſcretion to extend the Conveyance and Delivery of Letters by the ſaid Carriage called *The Penny Poſt*, beyond the Diſtance of Ten *Engliſh* Miles from the ſaid General Poſt Office in *London*; any Law, Statute, Cuſtom, or Uſage to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

The Delivery of Letters by the Penny Poſt may be extended beyond 10 Miles from the General Poſt Office.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all and every the Powers, Authorities, and Regulations herein contained, with reſpect to the Poſt called *The Penny Poſt*, eſtabliſhed within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, ſhall extend and be applied to the ſeveral Cities and Towns, and the Places adjacent thereto reſpectively, in which Penny Poſt Offices are already eſtabliſhed, or hereafter may be eſtabliſhed, within *Great Britain*, and that the Poſtmaſter General, for the Time being, ſhall and may in his Diſcretion extend the Conveyance and Delivery of Letters by the Penny Poſt beyond the Diſtance of Ten *Engliſh* Miles from ſuch Cities and Towns in which Penny Poſt Offices are already or may hereafter be eſtabliſhed, and that the ſame Rates of Poſtage hereby made payable, ſhall and may be received in ſuch Cities, Towns, and Places reſpectively.

The Powers of this Act to extend to all Places where Penny Poſt Offices are or ſhall be eſtabliſhed.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Surplus which ſhall remain at the End of each Quarter of all Monies ariſing by the ſaid Rates and Duties by this Act granted, after defraying the additional Expence of the more frequent Delivery of Letters by the Penny Poſt, ſhall be, and be deemed Part of the Revenue of the General Letter Office, or Poſt Office, or Office of Poſtmaſter General, and ſhall be carried to and made Part of the Conſolidated Fund.

The Surplus of the Rates at the End of each Quarter to be deemed Part of the Revenue of the General Poſt Office.

IX. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall at any Time or Times be ſued, moleſted, or proſecuted, for any Thing

by him or them done or executed in purſuance of this Act, or of any Clauſe, Matter, or Thing herein contained, ſuch Perſon and Perſons ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence for his or their Defence; and if upon the Trial a Verdict ſhall paſs for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ſhall become nonſuited, then ſuch Defendant or Defendants ſhall have Treble Coſts awarded to him or them, againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

General Iſſue.

Treble Coſts.

FINIS.