ANNO TRICESIMO QUARTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XCVIII.

An Act for the better Relief, Regulation, and Employment of the Poor, within the Town of *Bedford*, in the County of *Bedford*. [9th *May* 1794.]

WHEREAS the Poor within the ſeveral Pariſhes of *Saint Paul*, *Saint Mary*, *Saint John*, *Saint Peter*, and *Saint Cuthbert*, within the Town of *Bedford*, in the County of *Bedford*, are become very numerous, and are maintained and ſupported at a great and burthenſome Expence by the Inhabitants of ſuch reſpective Pariſhes: And whereas the providing of a convenient Houſe or Houſes for the general Reception of the Poor of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, and granting proper Powers for the Government, Regulation, and Employment of ſuch Poor, would tend to the more effectual Relief, Aſſiſtance, and Accommodation, of ſuch as by Age, Infirmities, or Diſeaſe, are rendered incapable of ſupporting themſelves by their Labour, to the Employment of the Induſtrious and thoſe who are able to work, to the Correction and Puniſhment of the Idle, Refractory, and Profligate, to the Education of the Infant Poor in the Habits of Induſtry and Religion, and to the Advantage of themſelves and Preamble.

the Inhabitants of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, whereby the ſaid Poor, inſtead of being wholly ſupported by the Publick, would contribute to the Support, Aſſiſtance, and Relief, mutually of each other, and be of ſome Advantage to the Community to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen; but as ſuch ſalutary Purpoſe cannot be effectually carried into Execution without the Aid and Authority of Parliament, may it pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That from and after the Thirteenth Day of *May* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, on which Day this Act ſhall commence and take Effect, all and every Perſon and Perſons inhabiting in any of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, and being rated and aſſeſſed to the Relief of the Poor thereto reſpectively belonging, for or in reſpect of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, ſituate, or in reſpect of any Tythes ariſing and encreaſing within any of ſuch Pariſhes reſpectively, of the Yearly Value of Ten Pounds or upwards, and alſo all and every Perſon and Perſons inhabiting within any of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, rated and aſſeſſed in any Degree to the Relief of the Poor thereto reſpectively belonging, who are or ſhall be ſeiſed in his, her, or their own Right, or in the Right of their Wives, of Freehold or Copyhold Meſſuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Tythes, either in Fee or for Life, or for a Term of Ten Years abſolute or upwards, or for a Term of Years determinable on One or more Life or Lives, of the Yearly Value of Ten Pounds or upwards, or who are or ſhall be poſſeſſed of a Perſonal Eſtate of the Value of, or to the Amount of Five hundred Pounds or upwards, ſhall be and are hereby declared to be incorporated, and ſhall be called by the Name of *The Guardians of the Poor within the Town of Bedford, in the County of Bedford*, and ſhall for ever thereafter be and 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 enabled to ſue and plead, and to be ſued by that Name in all Courts and Places whatſoever, and by that Name ſhall and may, without Licence or Mortmain, purchaſe, take, or receive, any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and take and receive the Gift, Alienation, or Deviſe, of any Perſon or Perſons for any Eſtate or Intereſt whatſoever; and all Perſons whomſoever are hereby enabled to convey and deviſe the ſame, and to give and bequeath any Goods, Money, or Chattels whatſoever, for the Uſe and Benefit of the Corporation aforeſaid, and by that Name the ſaid Corporation may and are hereby empowered to convey, aſſign, releaſe, transfer, let, ſet, demiſe, or diſpoſe, of any ſuch Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Money, Goods, and Chattels, or any other Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Money, Goods, or Chattels, which they may hereafter purchaſe, or become ſeiſed or poſſeſſed of for the Purpoſes of this Act, as there ſhall be Occaſion, ſubject to the Proviſions and Regulations herein-after contained.

Guardians of the Poor incorporated.

Their Stile.

Their Powers.

II. And be it further enacted, That the Perſons ſo qualified to be Guardians of the Poor as aforeſaid, or any Fifteen or more of them, ſhall and may, and they are hereby required to hold a Meeting at or in the Town Hall of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, on the Thirteenth Day of *May* One

Appointment of the Firſt Meeting.

One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-four, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and proceed to put this Act in Execution, and ſhall, by the Majority of Voices of ſuch of them as ſhall be then aſſembled, appoint ſome One Guardian, then preſent, to be Preſident or Chairman of ſuch Meeting, and the Perſon ſo elected Preſident or Chairman ſhall cauſe the Guardians then aſſembled to proceed to the Execution of this Act, and by Majority of Voices to nominate and appoint Twelve of the Guardians to be Directors, Six whereof ſhall be Inhabitants of the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint Paul*, Three others thereof Inhabitants of the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint Mary*, One other thereof an Inhabitant of the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint John*, One other thereof an Inhabitant of the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint Peter*, and the remaining One an Inhabitant of the ſaid Pariſh of *Saint Cuthbert*; which Twelve Perſons ſo nominated and appointed ſhall be and be called *Directors of the Poor within the Town of Bedford, in the County of Bedford*, and the ſaid Directors ſo elected ſhall be and continue Directors for Two whole Years then next enſuing, at the Expiration of which ſaid Two Years, Four of the ſaid Directors ſhall, by Ballot amongſt themſelves, quit the ſaid Direction, and Four others ſhall be elected in their Place and Stead, in the Manner hereafter mentioned; (that is to ſay), The ſaid Guardians, or any Fifteen or more of them, ſhall and may, and they are hereby required to aſſemble at or in the Town Hall, or other convenient Place, in the ſaid Town, on the Second *Tueſday* in the Month of *May* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſix, and on the Second *Tueſday* in the Month of *May* in every ſucceeding Year, and ſhall, by the Majority of Voices of ſuch of them as ſhall be then aſſembled, nominate and appoint Four of the Guardians (without Reſpect to any particular Pariſh or Pariſhes) to be Directors in the Place and Stead of the Four Directors who ſhall have quitted the Direction, which Four new Directors ſo to be elected, together with the Eight remaining Directors firſt choſen to act, ſhall be and continue Directors for One whole Year then next enſuing; and at the End of the Third Year of the ſaid Direction, Four of the Eight Directors who ſhall have ſerved in the ſaid Direction for the Three preceding Years ſhall, by Ballot amongſt themſelves, quit the ſaid Direction, and Four others ſhall be elected in their Place and Stead by the ſaid Guardians, in the Manner herein-before preſcribed for the Election of new Directors, who, with the remaining Eight Directors, who ſhall have ſerved the Year preceding, ſhall in like Manner be and continue Directors for One whole Year then next enſuing; and at the End of the Fourth Year of the ſaid Direction, the Four Directors who ſhall have ſerved in the ſaid Direction the Four preceding Years ſhall quit the ſaid Direction, and Four others ſhall be elected in their Place and Stead, in Manner and Form laſt aforeſaid, who, with the then remaining Eight Directors, ſhall be and continue Directors for One whole Year; and that at the End of every ſubſequent Year, the Four Directors who ſhall have been in the Direction Two ſucceſſive Years ſhall quit the Direction, and others ſhall be elected in their Place and Stead, in like Manner as the other new Directors are herein-before directed to be elected, who ſhall be and continue Directors of the ſaid Corporation until they ſhall be reſpectively diſplaced, and others elected in their Stead in Manner aforementioned; which Mode of Election ſhall invariably be obſerved in every ſucceeding Year for ever; and the ſaid Twelve Directors ſo to be choſen and elected ſhall be, and they are reſpectively hereby empowered to put in Execution all and every the Powers and

Chairman of the Firſt Meeting to be appointed.

Directors.

Authorities of this Act, for and during such Time as they shall respectively continue to act as Directors in virtue thereof.

The Mayor of *Bedford* always to be an additional Director.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Mayor for the Time being of the said Town of *Bedford* be, and he is hereby constituted and appointed an additional Director, over and above the Number of Twelve herein-before appointed.

Guardians and Directors, being Justices, may act as such.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all Guardians and Directors, who are Justices of the Peace, may act as Justices in the Execution of this Act, notwithstanding their being Guardians or Directors, except only in such Cases where they shall be personally interested.

Guardians to deliver in their Qualifications if required.

V. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That all and every the Guardians of the Poor aforesaid shall, (if required), before they shall presume to act in the Execution of any Power or Authority hereby given and granted, deliver, or cause to be delivered, upon Oath, before One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Town of *Bedford*, an Account in Writing, under his Hand, of his Qualification, and in what Parish or Parishes, Place or Places, the same (if such Qualification does not arise from a Personal Estate) is situated; and that the several and respective Guardians and Directors, from Time to Time assembled at any Meeting to be held by virtue of this Act, shall defray their own Charges and Expences.

Guardians and Directors to defray their own Expences.

Penalty on Persons not accepting the Office of Director, and not doing the Duties of it.

VI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person who shall have been duly elected into the Office of a Director, by virtue of this Act, shall, after Ten Days Notice of such Election, by Writing under the Hands of any Three of the Guardians or Directors of the said Corporation, to him given, or left at his House or Place of Abode, wilfully or designedly, and without reasonable Cause of Absence shewn to and approved by the said Corporation, or the major Part of the Members present at their next Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, after the Expiration of such Ten Days, refuse or neglect to accept and take upon him such Office, or in case of accepting the same, shall refuse or neglect to act therein, from Time to Time, for and during the Time for which he shall be appointed to serve as before mentioned, as the Duty of his Office shall require, each and every Person and Persons offending in any of the said Cases shall, for each and every Offence, forfeit and pay, to the Use of the said Corporation, the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and another Person shall be elected in his Stead, in Manner herein-after directed for electing Directors in the Room of such as shall die, remove, or become Bankrupt or Insolvent before the Expiration of their Office.

Penalty on Directors or Officers being concerned in any Contracts.

VII. And be it further enacted, That if any Director, Treasurer, or other Officer authorized, appointed, or employed to put this Act into Execution, shall, during the Time of his continuing in such Office or Offices, have or be any ways concerned in any Contract for Work or for supplying Necessaries for carrying this Act into Execution, or the supporting of the said Poor, (except for supplying or furnishing Materials for building or repairing the House or Houses of Industry by this Act directed to be built), each and every Director, Treasurer, or other Officer so offending, shall, for each and every such Offence, forfeit and pay,

to

to the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and another Perſon ſhall be forthwith elected in his Place or Stead, in Manner herein-after directed.

Appointment of new Directors in caſe of Death, Removal, &c.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in caſe any Director ſhall happen to die before the Expiration of the Time for which he ſhall be ſo elected to ſerve, or ſhall remove from out of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or ſhall become Bankrupt or Inſolvent, or be otherwiſe diſqualified from acting as a Director, before the Expiration of the Time for which he ſhall be elected to ſerve, the ſaid Directors ſhall, and they are hereby required, at their Firſt or Second Meeting next after ſuch Deceaſe, Removal, Bankruptcy, Inſolvency, or Diſqualification, to elect ſuch other Member of the ſaid Corporation, in the Place of the Perſon ſo dying, removing, becoming Bankrupt or Inſolvent, or being otherwiſe diſqualified, to execute the Office of Director for the Remainder of the Term ſuch Director, ſo dying, removing, becoming Bankrupt or Inſolvent, or being otherwiſe diſqualified, would have held the ſame, as the ſaid Directors, or the major Part of them then preſent, ſhall think fit.

No Director to be appointed again within Three Years without Conſent.

IX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Perſon who ſhall be elected a Director, and ſhall take upon him the ſaid Office, and act therein from Time to Time for and during the Term herein-before ſpecified for holding the ſame, and as the Duty of ſuch Office ſhall require, ſhall be liable to be again elected to ſerve the Office of Director within the Space of Three Years then next following, without his own free Conſent, nor ſhall any Perſon of the Age of Sixty-five Years or upwards, be liable or compellable to take upon him the Place or Office of Director under this Act; but nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend to prevent any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall have been elected and acted as a Director or Directors during the Time aforeſaid, from being immediately re-elected to that Office, if he or they ſhall be willing.

Directors required to take an Oath.

X. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors, before they take upon themſelves the Execution of any of the Powers or Authorities hereby given, ſhall adminiſter the Oath following to each other; (that is to ſay),

Oath.

'I *A. B.* do ſwear, that I will truly, faithfully, and impartially, according to the beſt of my Judgement, execute and perform all and every the Truſts, Powers, and Authorities veſted in me as a Director, by virtue of an Act paſſed in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King *George* the Third, intituled, *An Act for the better Relief, Regulation, and Employment of the Poor, within the Town of* Bedford, *in the County of* Bedford.

'So help me GOD.'

Which Oath the ſaid Directors are hereby empowered and required to adminiſter to each other at their Firſt or any ſubſequent Meeting to be from Time to Time had and held, by virtue and in purſuance of this Act.

If any Director is a Quaker he is to

XI. Provided alſo, That if any ſuch Director ſhall be One of the People called *Quakers*, then every ſuch Director, being a Quaker, ſhall, before he

make an Affirmation.

he takes upon himself the Execution of any of the Powers and Authorities given by this Act, make a solemn Affirmation to the Purport and Effect of the Oath herein-before directed to be taken, instead of such Oath.

Quarterly Meetings of Directors.

XII. And be it further enacted, That Four General Quarterly Meetings of the Directors shall be held in every Year, at the Times following; (that is to say), On the First *Tuesday* in *January*, the First *Tuesday* in *April*, the First *Tuesday* in *July*, and the First *Tuesday* in *October*, between the Hours of Ten and Twelve of the Clock in the Forenoon of each of the said Days respectively, and that the First of the said General Quarterly Meetings shall be held on the First *Tuesday* in the Month of *July* next after the Commencement of this Act, in the Town Hall of the said Town, and all subsequent General Quarterly Meetings shall be held at such Place as the Directors present at such First or subsequent Quarterly Meetings shall from Time to Time direct or appoint.

Weekly Meetings of Directors.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Directors for the Time being, or any Five or more of them, shall have Power, and they are hereby enjoined and required, within Thirteen Days next and immediately after the said Thirteenth Day of *May* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, to hold a Meeting in the said Town Hall, or in some other convenient Place, and they shall from Time to Time afterwards hold a Meeting in the said Town Hall, or some other convenient Place, on *Tuesday* in every Week, between the Hours of Eight and Twelve of the Clock in the Forenoon, until a proper Work House or House of Industry shall be provided, and then in such Work House or House of Industry for the Time being for ever; and the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby empowered, at any Time or Times as to them shall seem meet, to summon, assemble, and hold any Special Meeting, of which Two entire Days Notice shall be given under the Hands of the Directors requiring such Special Meeting, specifying the Time for holding the same.

Special Assemblies may be held.

Directors to appoint Officers.

Treasurer.

Clerk.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the said Directors assembled at their First Meeting, or at any subsequent Meeting to be held by virtue of this Act, shall and may, if they think fit, (by Ballot, and not otherwise), chuse One or more proper and sufficient Person or Persons to be Treasurer or Treasurers, and One sufficient Person to be Clerk to the said Corporation, and such Clerk shall, and he is hereby required from Time to Time to enter all the Proceedings of the said Guardians and Directors, or either of them, in Meeting assembled, in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose; and also it shall be lawful for the said Directors, in like Manner, from Time to Time, to appoint One or more Surgeon or Surgeons, Apothecary or Apothecaries, and One or more Governor or Governors, and Steward or Stewards, and such other Officer or Officers as they shall think necessary, to govern, oversee, and inspect, the Poor maintained and employed in such House of Industry, and may also appoint any Woman or Women to be a Matron or Matrons to attend and superintend the said Poor, and such Governors and Stewards, Matron or Matrons, shall from Time to Time make Reports of the Behaviour of the Poor under their Care and Inspection; and such Directors also shall, at any such Meeting, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of *England* to attend and perform

Surgeon and Apothecary.

Steward.

Matron.

Clergyman.

perform Divine Service in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, as often as they the ſaid Directors ſhall direct or appoint, to inſtruct the Poor in the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechiſm, viſit the Sick, and perform other Offices of his Function, and ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered to make ſuch Allowances to ſuch Treaſurer or Treaſurers, Clerk, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Governors, Stewards, Matron or Matrons, Clergyman, and all Officers, to be appointed by virtue of this Act, out of the Money hereby directed to be raiſed, for their Pains and Trouble therein, as they, or the major Part of them preſent, ſhall think proper, and may from Time to Time diſplace or diſcharge him, her, or them, or any of them, as to them the ſaid Directors ſhall ſeem meet, and upon their or either of their Removal, Death, or Reſignation, to chuſe others in his, her, or their Steads: Provided always, that the ſaid Directors ſhall, and they are hereby required to take ſuch Securities by Bond, with ſufficient Sureties, from ſuch Treaſurer or Treaſurers, for the due and faithful Execution of his or their Office or Offices, as to the ſaid Directors ſhall ſeem reaſonable.

Treaſurer to give Security.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, may, and they are hereby empowered and authorized at any of their ſaid Meetings, to contract and agree for the Purchaſe or Hire for any Term of Years, or for the Purchaſe of any Houſe or Houſes, and to fit up and repair the ſame, or to purchaſe or hire any Lands or Hereditaments, as well open or commonable Land as incloſed Land, and to incloſe ſuch open or commonable Land, ſituate, lying, and being, within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or the Precincts thereof, and to erect and build thereon any Houſe or Houſes, Building or Buildings whatſoever, for the Purpoſes of this Act, and to aſſign, ſet apart, or fix, upon any ſuch Rooms or Apartments within or adjoining to the ſame, for a Place of Correction, as they ſhall think fit; and it ſhall be lawful for all Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Feoffees in Truſt, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Huſbands, Guardians, Committees of Lunaticks or Idiots, or other Truſtees, not only for and on Behalf of themſelves, their Heirs and Succeſſors, but alſo for and on Behalf of their Ceſtuique Truſt, whether Infants or Iſſue unborn, Lunaticks, Idiots, Femes Covert, and all and every other Perſon under any legal Diſability or Incapacity whatſoever, and to and for all and every Perſon and Perſons whomſoever, who are or ſhall be ſeiſed, poſſeſſed of, or intereſted in any Houſe or Houſes, Land or Hereditament, as well open or commonable Land as incloſed Land, to contract with the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, for the Letting or Sale of ſuch Houſe or Houſes, Land or Hereditament, for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, and likewiſe ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered to demiſe or let, and alſo to ſell, convey, aſſign, releaſe, transfer, or diſpoſe of, all or any Part or Parts of ſuch Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, for the Benefit or Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, as there ſhall be Occaſion, without the Conſent or Concurrence of any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever having or claiming any Right of Common, or any other Right, on ſuch open or commonable Land, and all Contracts, Lettings, Sales, Conveyances, and Grants, which ſhall be ſo made ſhall be valid to all Intents and Purpoſes, and all Right of Common in and over the ſaid open or commonable Land ſo purchaſed or hired as aforeſaid, ſhall from thenceforth ceaſe and be extinguiſhed,

Directors may contract for and purchaſe Lands, Buildings, &c.

extinguiſhed, any Law, Statute, Uſage, or other Matter to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding; and upon Payment of the Purchaſe Money agreed upon between the ſaid Directors and the Perſon or Perſons ſeiſed of ſuch Houſe or Houſes, Lands or Hereditaments, or intereſted therein, all and every Perſon and Perſons claiming or to claim any Eſtate or Intereſt in ſuch Houſe or Houſes, Lands or Hereditaments, ſhall thereupon be diveſted of all ſuch Eſtate, Right, Title, and Intereſt therein, and the ſame ſhall from thenceforth become and is hereby abſolutely veſted in the ſaid Corporation and their Succeſſors for ever; and all ſuch Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Feoffees in Truſt, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Huſbands, Guardians, Committees, Truſtees, and all other Perſons, ſhall be and are hereby indemnified for what they ſhall do by virtue of this Act; which Houſe or Houſes to be purchaſed, erected, or built, ſhall be called *The Bedford Houſe of Induſtry*; and the ſaid Directors ſhall keep the Buildings ſo purchaſed or to be erected as aforeſaid in good and ſufficient Repair, and from Time to Time may alter or enlarge the ſame in ſuch Manner as they ſhall think convenient, and provide Furniture for the ſame, and all Materials and Things for putting in Execution this Act; and that the Expences of hiring or purchaſing ſuch Buildings, Lands, and Hereditaments, erecting and repairing ſuch Houſes or Buildings, keeping the ſame in Repair, and providing Furniture and other Materials and Things, ſhall be defrayed out of the Money ariſing by virtue of this Act.

If Parties intereſted will not treat, or they and the Directors cannot agree, the Purchaſe Money or Recompence to be ſettled by a Jury.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That in caſe any Owner, Proprietor, or Occupier, Body Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, or any other Perſon or Perſons intereſted in any ſuch Land, upon Notice to him, her, or them given, or left in Writing at the Dwelling Houſe or Place of Abode of ſuch Perſon, or of the Sole or Head Officer of ſuch Corporation, or at the Houſe of the Tenant in Poſſeſſion of ſuch Land, (not being a Yard, Garden, Orchard, Park, Paddock, Planted Walk, or Avenue to any Houſe, or any incloſed Grounds, planted and ſet apart as a Nurſery for Trees), ſhall, by the Space of Thirty Days after ſuch Notice given or left as aforeſaid, neglect or refuſe to treat, or ſhall not agree in the Premiſes, or by reaſon of Abſence ſhall be prevented from treating, contracting, or agreeing, then, and in every or any ſuch Caſe, the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall cauſe to be enquired into, aſcertained, and aſſeſſed, (by and upon the Oaths of a Jury of Twelve indifferent Men of the County of *Bedford*, which Oath any Five or more of the Directors are hereby empowered to adminiſter), what Damages ſhall be ſuſtained by, and what Recompence ſhall be made to ſuch Owners, Proprietors, Occupiers, or other Perſons intereſted therein, and in order thereto the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, are hereby empowered, from Time to Time, as Occaſion ſhall be, to ſummon before the ſaid Jury, and examine upon Oath any Perſon whomſoever as a Witneſs concerning the Premiſes, (which Oath any Five or more of the ſaid Directors are hereby empowered to adminiſter), and they ſhall alſo order and cauſe the ſaid Jury to view the ſaid Places in Queſtion, if there be Occaſion, and uſe all lawful Ways and Means, as well for their own as for the ſaid Jury's Information in the Premiſes, as they the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think fit, and after the ſaid Jury ſhall have enquired of, aſcertained, and aſſeſſed, ſuch Damage and Recompence, they the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall thereupon

thereupon order, adjudge, and determine, the ſaid Sum or Sums of Money ſo aſſeſſed by the ſaid Jury to be paid to the ſaid Owners, Proprietors, or Occupiers of, or other Perſons intereſted in, the ſaid Houſes, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments, according to ſuch Verdict or Inquiſition of the ſaid Jury, which ſaid Verdict or Inquiſition, and Judgement, Order, or Determination, ſo had or made, ſhall be fairly entered and kept amongſt the Records of the Quarter Seſſions for the ſaid County, and ſhall be final, binding, and concluſive, to all Intents and Purpoſes, againſt all Parties and Perſons whomſoever claiming in Poſſeſſion, Reverſion, Remainder, or otherwiſe, their Heirs and Succeſſors, as well abſent as preſent, Infants, Femes Covert, Idiots, Lunaticks, Ceſtuique Truſts, and Perſons under any other Diſability whatſoever, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Feoffees in Truſt, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Huſbands, Guardians, and Committees, as well as all other Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, and all and every ſuch Owners, Proprietors, and Occupiers, and all and every Perſon and Perſons intereſted in ſuch Land, ſhall, upon Payment or Tender of the Sum or Sums of Money ſo aſſeſſed as aforeſaid, be thereby and from thenceforth, to all Intents and Purpoſes, diveſted of all Right, Title, Claim, Intereſt, and Property of, in, to, or out of, the ſame, and the ſame ſhall from thenceforth become and is hereby abſolutely veſted in the ſaid Corporation and their Succeſſors for ever; and for the ſummoning and returning ſuch Jury or Juries the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, are hereby empowered to iſſue out their Precept to the Sheriff of the ſaid County of *Bedford*, thereby requiring him to impannel, ſummon, and return, Twenty-four indifferent Perſons to appear before the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, at ſuch Time and Place as in ſuch Precept ſhall be appointed, ſuch Time not being leſs than Five Days after the Receipt of ſuch Precept, and the ſaid Sheriff, or his Deputy or Deputies, is and are hereby required to impannel, ſummon, and return, ſuch Number accordingly, and out of the Perſons ſo impannelled, ſummoned, and returned, or out of ſuch of them as ſhall appear upon ſuch Summons, the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall ſwear or cauſe to be ſworn Twelve, to be drawn by Ballot out of the ſaid Twenty-four, and in Default of a ſufficient Number of Perſons ſo impannelled appearing, the ſaid Sheriff, or his Deputy or Deputies, ſhall return other honeſt and indifferent Men of the Standersby, or that can ſpeedily be procured to attend that Service, who ſhall be ſworn in like Manner until the Number of Twelve be completed, which Twelve ſhall be the Jury for the Purpoſes aforeſaid; and all Perſons concerned ſhall have their lawful Challenges againſt any of the ſaid Jurymen when they come to be ſworn; and the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, acting in the Premiſes, ſhall have full Power from Time to Time to impoſe any reaſonable Fine or Fines on ſuch Sheriff, or his Deputy or Deputies, making Default in the Premiſes, and on any of the Perſons who ſhall be ſummoned and returned on ſuch Jury and ſhall not appear, or who ſhall refuſe to be ſworn on the ſaid Jury, or being ſo ſworn ſhall refuſe to give or not give their Verdict, or in any other Manner wilfully neglect their Duty therein, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, and on any of the Perſons who being required to give Evidence before the ſaid Jury touching the Premiſes ſhall refuſe or neglect to appear, or appearing ſhall refuſe to be ſworn and give Evidence,

dence, and from Time to Time to recover, levy, and apply such Fine or Fines in the same Manner as any other Forfeiture or Penalty is by this Act directed to be recovered, levied, and applied, so as that no such Fine shall exceed the Sum of Ten Pounds upon any One Person for One Offence.

Paying the Expences of the Jury.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That in case any such Jury shall give in and deliver a Verdict or Assessment for more Monies as a Recompence for the Right, Interest, or Property, of any Person or Persons in any such Houses, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments, or for any such Loss or Damage, than what shall have been agreed to and offered by the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, before the summoning or returning the said Jury, as a Recompence or Satisfaction for any such Right, Interest, or Property, or Loss or Damage as aforesaid, that then and in such Case the Costs and Expences of summoning and maintaining the said Jury and Witnesses shall be borne and paid by the said Directors out of the Rates or Assessments hereby granted, or out of any Money to be borrowed upon the Credit thereof; but if any such Jury shall give and deliver a Verdict or Assessment for no more, or for less Monies than shall have been agreed to and offered by the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, before the summoning and returning the said Jury, as a Recompence or Satisfaction for any such Right, Interest, or Property, or Loss or Damage as aforesaid, that then the Costs and Expences of summoning and maintaining the said Jury and Witnesses shall be borne and paid by the Person or Persons with whom the said Directors shall have such Controversy or Dispute, which Costs shall and may be deducted and retained by the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, out of the Monies so assessed by the said Jury as the Value of the said Premises.

Purchase Monies belonging to Corporations to be reinvested.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That the Money or Recompence to be paid for any Lands or other Hereditaments which shall be purchased for the Purposes aforesaid, belonging to any Body Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporation Aggregate or Sole, or other incapacitated Person, Infant, Lunatick, Idiot, or Feme Covert, shall be paid to such Person or Persons as such Body Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporation Aggregate or Sole, or the Feoffee in Trust, Guardian, Trustee, or Committee of such Infants, Lunaticks, or Person or Persons under any Disability or Incapacity, shall respectively nominate and appoint to receive the same, in Trust, with all convenient Speed to lay out and invest the same in the Purchase of other Lands or Hereditaments which shall be conveyed to, and settled upon, and subject to, the like Uses, Trusts, and Limitations, as the Lands or Hereditaments belonging to such Corporation or other Persons as aforesaid, which shall be purchased or taken for the Purposes of this Act, were settled, limited, assured, and subject unto, and in the mean Time and until such Purchase can be made, such Money shall be placed in the Publick Funds, in the Name or Names of such Corporation, Guardians, Trustees, or Committees, and the Interest or Dividends thereof shall go and be applied to and for the Use of the respective Persons who would be entitled to the Rents and Profits of the Lands or Hereditaments to be purchased with such Money, in case the same were actually purchased and settled.

XIX. Provided

XIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all the Houſes, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to be hired or purchaſed under the Authority of this Act, and all Buildings which may hereafter be erected or altered by virtue thereof, ſhall be free from all Parochial and Parliamentary Taxes, except ſuch Taxes and to ſuch Amount as they ſhall be aſſeſſed at the Time they ſhall be firſt taken and applied for the Purpoſes of this Act.

Lands, &c. purchaſed or hired, to be rated as heretofore.

XX. And be it further enacted, That all poor Perſons within the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes of *Saint Paul*, *Saint Mary*, *Saint John*, *Saint Peter*, and *Saint Cuthbert*, in the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, who are incapable of providing for themſelves, ſhall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, in the ſame Manner as they now are, until the Houſe or Houſes, by this Act directed to be built, fitted up, and finiſhed, ſhall be completed, and ready for their Reception, and that within Ten Days after the next General Quarterly Meeting that ſhall be held after ſuch Houſe or Houſes ſhall be ſo built and fitted up, the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, aſſembled at ſuch Meeting, ſhall cauſe Notice to be given to the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes herein-before mentioned, requiring them to convey to ſuch Houſe or Houſes, within Eight Days after ſuch Notice, all poor Children, and other Perſons incapable of providing for themſelves, and who are relieved by ſuch Pariſhes, and are in a proper State to be removed, and that all ſuch poor Children and Perſons ſhall from thenceforth be under the Government of the ſaid Directors, who ſhall receive and provide for them according to the Directions of this Act, and that no ſuch poor Children, or other Perſons ſhall, from and after ſuch Notice, be relieved by the Churchwardens or Overſeers of the Poor of any Pariſh, unleſs by an Order under the Hands of Five or more of the Directors.

Poor Perſons to continue under the Government of the Churchwardens and Overſeers of their reſpective Pariſhes, until the Houſe of Induſtry ſhall be completed.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That, after ſuch Buildings are purchaſed or erected, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, at or by Order made at any of their ſaid Meetings, to contract for, purchaſe, or provide ſuch Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Proviſions, Cloathing, Utenſils, and Materials whatſoever, as ſhall be thought proper for the effectual ſetting to work, receiving, employing, maintaining, and cloathing of the Poor, under the Care and Power of the ſaid Directors, of what Age, Sex, or Condition ſoever they be; and the ſaid Directors ſhall have, and they are hereby veſted with the Care, Controul, and Management, as well as Power to provide for the Maintenance and Employment of the Poor of and belonging to the ſeveral Pariſhes aforeſaid, and all ſuch other Poor who ſhall be taken and received in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, (except ſuch Poor of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes who ſhall be otherwiſe ſufficiently provided for by the charitable Gifts of others, or in private Hoſpitals or Alms Houſes within any of the aforeſaid Pariſhes); and the ſaid Directors ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered to ſet the ſaid Poor to work in ſuch Manner as Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor are empowered to do by any Law now in being relating to the Poor, or in ſuch other Manner as the ſaid Directors ſhall think proper, ſubject to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations herein contained, and ſhall and may, by Warrant under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, or under the Hand and Seal of One

Houſe of Induſtry to be furniſhed.

Directors to have the Care and Management of the Poor.

of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, apprehend all and every idle and diſorderly Perſon and Perſons, who, by Reaſon of their idle and diſorderly Living ſhall neglect or refuſe to maintain, or ſhall leave or threaten to leave and deſert their Families, not being afterwards able to maintain themſelves, and alſo all other People who ſhall beg, ſeek, or want Relief for the Time being, and who ſhall belong to, and ought, according to the Proviſions of this Act, or of any Law now in being, to be relieved and provided for by any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, to come into, work, dwell, and inhabit in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, and to detain, keep, maintain, and employ, all ſuch reſpective poor Perſons therein, during ſuch Time, and ſo long as it ſhall appear to the ſaid Directors, that ſuch poor Perſons, or any of them reſpectively, are not of Ability ſufficiently to maintain and provide for themſelves without the Aid of the ſaid Corporation; and all ſuch Poor who ſhall be received, or who ſhall come to dwell in, or be brought into, the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, ſhall, during ſuch their Abode and Reſidence there, and whilſt maintained by the ſaid Corporation as aforeſaid, do, execute, and perform, ſuch Work, Labour, Buſineſs, and Employ, as the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think fit and judge proper to be done by them reſpectivly, for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, and the ſaid Directors ſhall and may detain and keep all ſuch idle and diſorderly Perſons who ſhall have ſo deſerted, threatened to leave, neglected, or refuſed to maintain, his, her, or their Family or Families, and to ſet each of them to work in ſuch Houſe of Induſtry during ſuch Time and until each ſuch Perſon, by his or her Work and Labour there ſhall have got and raiſed ſo much Money, above his, her, or their Maintenance, as ſhall be ſufficient to repay and reimburſe to the ſaid Corporation the Charges and Expences they ſhall have ſuſtained in maintaining and providing for every ſuch idle and diſorderly Perſon and his or her Family; and in caſe any ſuch idle or diſorderly Perſon ſhall not, by his or her Work and Labour, be able to get ſo much Money as ſhall be ſufficient to reimburſe the ſaid Corporation the Charges and Expences of maintaining him or her, or his or her Family as aforeſaid, then, and ſo often as it ſhall ſo happen, the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall, and they are hereby empowered to detain ſuch idle and diſorderly Perſons within their Place of Correction, and to keep him or her to ſuch hard Labour as he or ſhe ſhall be judged able to undergo, for ſuch Time, not exceeding One Year, as the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think fit, and may, if they think neceſſary, cauſe him or her to be puniſhed by moderate Correction, or by Abatement of Diet or Diſtinction of Dreſs, at the Diſcretion of the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them.

A Burial Ground to be provided.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, and they are hereby required, as ſoon as conveniently may be, to incloſe a ſufficient Part of the Ground ſo to be purchaſed or hired as aforeſaid, and to convert the ſaid Ground, or a ſufficient Part thereof, to and for a Burial Ground for the Perſons maintained within or belonging to the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, and to pay or cauſe to be paid the Expence of ſuch Incloſure and Converſion, out of the Monies ariſing by virtue of this Act, and the Rectors, Vicars, and Miniſters of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes for the Time being ſhall, from Time to Time, be entitled to, and have, hold, exerciſe, perform, and enjoy,

enjoy, the ſame Rights, Liberties, Duties, and Privileges, over all the Ground ſo to be converted into a Burial Ground as aforeſaid, as they now lawfully have, or can or may claim, over and in reſpect to the preſent Church Yards or Burying Grounds of each reſpective Pariſh; and alſo that the ſaid reſpective Rectors, Vicars, and Miniſters, and the Clerks and Sextons for the Time being, ſhall for ever receive and take the like Rates, Dues, Fees, and Profits, for or on Account of Burials in any Part or Parts of the ſaid Ground ſo to be purchaſed or hired, and converted into a Burial Ground, as they, or any of them reſpectively now take and receive for or on Account of Burials in their preſent Church Yards or Burying Grounds reſpectively.

Burial Ground to be Freehold Land.

XXIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Ground but what is Freehold, or held by Leaſe for a Term of Nine hundred and ninety-nine Years at a Pepper Corn Rent, ſhall be ſet apart for a Burial Place as aforeſaid, or be made uſe of as ſuch, until it has been conſecrated by the Dioceſan.

Power to apprehend Vagrants.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That, for the better apprehending and Diſcovery of all ſuch Poor in and belonging to the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, as ſhall wander and beg or ſeek Relief, it ſhall be lawful for ſuch Perſon or Perſons as they the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall nominate and appoint, taking to his or their Aſſiſtance a Conſtable or Conſtables of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, to enter (in the Day Time) into any Houſe or other Building in any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes where any ſuch Poor ſhall dwell, or be known to lodge or reſide, and to examine, ſearch, and ſee, whether any of the Poor within any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes are in Want, or are accuſtomed to beg or ſeek Relief, and ought to be relieved, and him, her, or them, ſo found, to apprehend and convey forthwith to the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry; and in caſe any ſuch Poor Perſon or Perſons ſo found ſhall refuſe to come into the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, that then the ſaid Directors may, by Order made at any of their Meetings, or by ſuch Ways and Means as they ſhall judge moſt reaſonable and proper, remove and convey, or cauſe to be removed or conveyed, the Perſon or Perſons ſo refuſing to the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, to be there employed and maintained, purſuant to the Directions of this Act; and they the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, by Warrant under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, or under the Hand and Seal of any One Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, may and they are hereby reſpectively empowered to apprehend or cauſe to be apprehended all Vagrants, Single Pregnant Women, Street Walkers, Common Proſtitutes, and other idle or diſorderly Perſons coming to, or being or wandering within the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, and not having any lawful Employment, or viſible Means of getting his or her Livelihood, and to inform themſelves, by the Examination upon Oath of the Perſon or Perſons apprehended, or of any other Perſon or Perſons, of the Condition and Circumſtances of the Perſon or Perſons ſo apprehended, and of his, her, or their Place or Places of legal Settlement, and by a Paſs under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, or under the Hand and Seal of ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, to cauſe every ſuch Vagrant, Single Pregnant Woman, Street Walker, Common Proſtitute, or other idle or diſorderly Perſon, to be conveyed and paſſed to the Place of his, her, or their, laſt legal Settlement, and to make

make ſuch Allowances in reſpect to the Apprehenſion and paſſing of every ſuch Perſon or Perſons as any Juſtices of the Peace are empowered to do by any of the Laws now in Force reſpecting Vagrants and other idle or diſorderly Perſons; or the ſaid Directors, or any Five of them, or ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, may cauſe every ſuch Perſon to be brought into, and to be ſet and kept at work in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, or otherwiſe to be employed, under the Direction of the Governor, Steward, or other proper Officer, to and for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, and ſuch Vagrants and other idle or diſorderly Perſons, (and alſo all other Perſons maintained in the ſaid Houſe or Houſes, who ſhall be guilty of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or diſorderly Behaviour, or ſhall refuſe or neglect to do or perform the Work or Service which he or ſhe ſhall be required to do, or ſhall be remiſs therein, ſuch Work or Labour being ſuited to his or her Age, Strength, and Ability), ſhall be ſubject to ſuch Corporal or other reaſonable Puniſhment, as the ſaid Directors ſhall inflict or cauſe to be inflicted; and every ſuch apprehended Perſon ſhall be detained in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry for any Time not longer than Six Months, at the Diſcretion of the ſaid Directors, and ſhall then be diſmiſſed as the ſaid Directors ſhall appoint, during all which Time ſuch apprehended Perſon ſhall be maintained and provided for by the ſaid Directors at the Coſts of the ſaid Corporation.

Children taken in, to be apprenticed.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That all poor Children who ſhall at any Time be maintained by the ſaid Corporation, ſhall be and remain under their Care and Government until they arrive at the Age of Fourteen Years, and that after ſuch Children ſhall attain the Age of Fourteen Years reſpectively, or ſooner, if the ſaid Directors ſhall think fit, the ſaid Directors ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered and required, by Writing under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, to bind and put forth any ſuch Children Apprentices to any reputable Perſon in *England* or *Wales*, to be taught any Art, Trade, Myſtery, or Occupation, or any Handicraft Buſineſs, or Manufacture, or to be employed in the Sea Service, as the Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think moſt ſuited to the Strength and Capacity of ſuch Child or Children, for any Term not exceeding Seven Years, or until ſuch Child (being a Male) ſhall attain the Age of Twenty-one Years, or (being a Female) until ſuch Child ſhall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, or Day of Marriage, and that every ſuch Writing ſhall be mutually binding as an Indenture between the Maſter, Miſtreſs, and Apprentice, and ſhall, in all Reſpects, be enforced according to the Laws now in Force concerning the apprenticing of Poor Children whoſe Parents are not able to provide for them; and that the ſaid Directors ſhall, and they are hereby required to provide neceſſary Cloathing for every ſuch Apprentice upon his or her being bound as aforeſaid.

Children may be diſcharged ſooner, or hired out;

the other Poor may be hired out to Work.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered to diſcharge out of the ſaid Houſe, or to hire out any ſuch Poor Child or Children of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, either before or after he, ſhe, or they, ſhall have attained the Age of Fourteen Years, and alſo to hire out any of the other Poor within the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry to work and labour, at and for ſuch Time and Times, and in ſuch Manner,

ner, and for such Sum and Sums of Money or Wages, for the Benefit of the said Corporation, as the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, and the Person or Persons hiring or contracting for the Labour of such Poor, shall agree and determine; and the Poor Children and other Persons so hired out shall do and perform the Work and Labour stipulated and agreed to be done to the best of their Power, and after such Work shall be completed and finished, shall, without Delay, return with their working Instruments (if any) and the Apparel wherewith he, she, or they, went out to work (Allowance being made for reasonable Wear of such Apparel) to the said House of Industry, or in Default thereof, shall and may be apprehended by Warrant under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, or under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said Town of *Bedford*, in any County or Place whatsoever, and conveyed back to the said House of Industry, to be employed and provided for as aforesaid; and on every such Person being so apprehended and brought back, the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, may, and they are hereby empowered to inflict or cause to be inflicted such reasonable Punishment on the Person so apprehended as they shall think fit; and that in all Cases whatsoever where any of the Poor under the Care and Management of the said Directors shall not from Time to Time work and labour, and obey and perform the Rules and Ordinances of the said Corporation, they the said Directors, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby empowered, to order such poor Person or Persons so misbehaving to be put in the Place of Correction, there to do such Task Work, or to suffer such Confinement, Corporal or other reasonable Punishment, as such Directors shall order to be inflicted.

Power to borrow Money.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Corporation from Time to Time to borrow and take up at Interest any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Eight thousand Pounds, upon such Mortgages and Assignments, and for such Sums of Money, as shall be adjudged most convenient for raising the same, and to assign over, by Writing under the Hands of Five or more of the said Directors, and under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, all and every the Buildings, Lands, Hereditaments, and Premises of the said Corporation, and all or any Part of the Poors Rates and Assessments to be made and collected within the said several Parishes, to the Person or Persons advancing or lending the same, as a Security for the Re-payment of the Principal Sum and Sums of Money so to be borrowed, with Interest for the same; or in case the said Directors shall think it more advantageous to raise all or any Part of the said Monies by the granting of Annuities for Lives, then it shall be lawful for the said Directors, or any Five or more of them; and they are hereby authorized and empowered, by Writing under their Hands, and under the Common Seal of the said Corporation, to grant Annuities to any Person or Persons who shall contribute, advance, and pay into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said Corporation any Sum or Sums of Money for the absolute Purchase of any Annuity or Annuities to be paid during the natural Life of every such Person so contributing, advancing, and paying as aforesaid, or the natural Life of such Person as shall be nominated by or on Behalf of such Contributor at the Time of Payment of his or her Contribution or Purchase Money,

and every Annuity ſo to be granted as aforeſaid ſhall be, and is hereby charged upon, and ſhall be payable and paid, free from all Taxes and Deductions, out of all and every the Rates and Aſſeſſments to be made and collected for the Relief of the Poor within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*; and the Purchaſer of every ſuch Annuity, his or her Executors, Adminiſtrators, and Aſſigns, ſhall have, receive, and be entitled to ſuch Annuity out of the ſaid Rates and Aſſeſſments, during the Term of the natural Life of the Perſon for whoſe Life ſuch Annuity ſhall be purchaſed, and every ſuch Annuity ſhall be payable and paid in ſuch Place as ſhall be mentioned in ſuch Grant (the Charges of ſuch Mortgages or Aſſignments, and Grants of Annuities to be paid out of the Money to be raiſed by virtue of this Act), and all and every Perſon or Perſons entitled to any Security or Securities for the Money borrowed or raiſed by Mortgage, Aſſignment, or Annuities, granted as aforeſaid, and their reſpective Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns, is and are hereby empowered, from Time to Time, by Writing under his, her, or their Hand or Hands, to transfer ſuch Security or Securities, and his, her, and their Right to the Money thereby ſecured, unto any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, which Transfer may be made by Indorſement on ſuch Security or Securities, in the Preſence of Two or more credible Witneſſes, or by a ſeparate Inſtrument, and every ſuch Aſſignee may in like Manner transfer again, and ſo *toties quoties*; and Copies of all ſuch Mortgages or Aſſignments, and Grants of Annuities, and of all Transfers thereof, ſhall be entered in a Book or Books to be kept by the Clerk to the ſaid Corporation; and for the Entry of every ſuch Mortgage, Aſſignment, Grant, and Transfer, the ſaid Clerk ſhall be paid the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence, and no more, and which Book or Books ſhall and may, at all ſeaſonable Times, be peruſed and inſpected by any Perſon or Perſons declaring himſelf or herſelf intereſted therein, without Fee or Reward, and after ſuch Entry made of any ſuch Mortgage or Aſſignment, Grant, and Transfer, every ſuch Mortgage or Aſſignment, Grant and Transfer, ſo entered, ſhall entitle the Perſon or Perſons to whom the ſame ſhall be made, and his, her, or their reſpective Executors, Adminiſtrators and Aſſigns, to the Benefit thereof; and all and every Perſon and Perſons to whom ſuch Aſſignments, Mortgages, Grants, and Transfers ſhall be made, ſhall be, in Proportion to the Sum or Sums therein mentioned, Creditors on the ſaid Buildings, Lands, Hereditaments, and Premiſes, and upon the ſaid Rates, equally one with another, and ſhall have no Preference in reſpect to the Priority of advancing ſuch Money.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Aſſignment which ſhall be made of the ſaid Buildings, Lands, Hereditaments, and Premiſes of the ſaid Corporation, or of all or any Part of the Poors Rates and Aſſeſſments, or of all or any or either of them, by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall be in the following Words, or Words to the ſame Effect; *videlicet*,

Form of Mortgage.

'WE, *A. B.* &c. being of the Directors appointed and incorporated by an Act of Parliament, paſſed 'in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King 'George the Third, intituled, *An Act for the better Relief, Regulation,*

'*and Employment of the Poor, within the Town of* Bedford, *in the County* '*of* Bedford, in Conſideration of the Sum of
'paid to us by do aſſign unto the ſaid
' all and every the Buildings, Lands, Hereditaments, and
'Premiſes, of the ſaid Corporation, and all and every the Poors Rates
'and Aſſeſſments to be made and collected for the Relief of the
'Poor within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, in purſuance of the ſaid Act, with
'all Powers and Authorities for entering upon the ſame Buildings,
'Lands, Hereditaments, and Premiſes, and for receiving the Rents,
'Iſſues, and Profits thereof, and for collecting and raiſing the ſame
'Poors Rates and Aſſeſſments under the ſaid Act, to have, hold, re-
'ceive, and take, the ſame to his, her, or their, own Uſe and Benefit,
'from the Day of the Date hereof until the ſaid Sum of
' and Intereſt, at the Rate of for One hundred
'Pounds, by the Year, ſhall be repaid. Witneſs our Hands the
' Day of

And every ſuch Grant of any Annuity ſhall be in the following Words, or Words to the ſame Effect; *(videlicet)*,

'WE, *A. B.* &c. being of the Directors appointed and in-
'corporated by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in the Thirty-fourth
'Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King *George* the Third, intituled,
'*An Act for the better Relief, Regulation, and Employment of the Poor,*
'*within the Town of* Bedford, *in the County of* Bedford, in Conſideration
'of the Sum of paid by
' to us, do hereby grant unto the ſaid
' Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns,
'an Annuity or Yearly Sum of
'out of the Rates or Aſſeſſments to be made for the Relief of the Poor
'within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, which Annuity or Yearly Sum of
' ſhall be paid to the ſaid
' Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns, at or in the
' upon the in every Year,
'during the natural Life of and the Firſt
'Payment thereof ſhall be made the Day of
' Witneſs our Hands the Day of

And every Transfer which ſhall be made of ſuch Aſſignment, or of ſuch Grant of any Annuity, by Indorſement thereon, ſhall be in the following Words, or Words to that Effect; *(videlicet)*,

'I, the within-named in Conſideration of the Sum
'of to me paid by
'at or before the Execution hereof, (the Receipt whereof I do hereby
'acknowledge), do aſſign and transfer the within Security, and all my
'Right, Title and Intereſt, in and to the ſame, and the Money thereby
'ſecured, unto the ſaid Executors, Ad-
'miniſtrators, and Aſſigns. Witneſs my Hand the
'Day of

XXIX. And, in order to raiſe an adequate Fund to enable the ſaid Corporation to carry into Execution the ſeveral Truſts hereby in them repoſed; For making Aſſeſſments.

repoſed; be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors, at any Meeting or Meetings to be held in purſuance of this Act, ſhall and may, and they are hereby empowered and required to fix and aſcertain ſuch Sum and Sums of Money, (Regard being had by them to ſuch Average of the Rates within the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes as is herein-after mentioned), upon the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes as ſhall be needful from Time to Time to be raiſed and paid by and out of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, for paying the Intereſt of the Money to be borrowed as aforeſaid, and the Annuities granted, and for defraying the Expences of the Maintenance of the Poor, and for and towards paying off and diſcharging the Principal Money to be borrowed as aforeſaid, and for the other Purpoſes of this Act; and the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall, and they are hereby empowered, from Time to Time, to iſſue Warrants, under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, to the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of all and every the ſaid Pariſhes, requiring them to pay, at ſome particular Time and Place to be ſpecified in ſuch Warrants, the Sums ſo fixed and aſcertained, or any Part or Parts thereof, upon the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, to the Treaſurer to the ſaid Corporation for the Time being, whoſe Receipt for the ſame ſhall be a ſufficient Diſcharge to ſuch reſpective Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor; and for raiſing the Sums fixed and aſcertained by the ſaid Directors, ſuch reſpective Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor ſhall, and they are hereby required, from Time to Time, with as much Equality and Indifference as poſſible, to raiſe by Rate or Aſſeſſment, of or upon every Inhabitant, Parſon, Vicar, and others, within their reſpective Pariſhes, ſo much Money as ſhall be fixed and aſcertained as the Quota upon each of ſuch reſpective Pariſhes by the ſaid Directors; for all which Sums of Money ſo aſſeſſed and received by the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor, in caſe of any Deficiency, the Pariſhioners and Inhabitants of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes wherein ſuch Sums of Money ſhall be ſo aſſeſſed and received, ſhall be anſwerable, and ſhall be compellable to pay the ſame upon Re-aſſeſſment, which in that Caſe is hereby directed to be made by the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers; and ſuch Rates and Aſſeſſments, and alſo ſuch Re-aſſeſſments, for the Sums ſo fixed and aſcertained, ſhall be aſſeſſed, 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 and in Force to be aſſeſſed, levied, and recovered, and with the ſame Power of Appeal to Perſons aggrieved.

Churchwardens and Overſeers to collect the Rates.

In caſe of Deficiency Re-aſſeſſments to be made.

Churchwardens, &c. to account with Directors, and pay the Money collected to the Treaſurer;

and to account in Writing;

in Failure thereof to be committed.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor reſpectively of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes ſhall, and they are and each of them is hereby required from Time to Time, quarterly, or as often as ordered by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, to pay over all ſuch Sum and Sums of Money by them received, by virtue of the ſeveral Rates and Aſſeſſments aforeſaid, into the Hands of the ſaid Treaſurer, and ſhall alſo make up and render to the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, as often as thereunto required, full, true, perfect, and diſtinct Accounts, in Writing, of all and every Sum and Sums of Money ſo collected and received by them reſpectively by virtue of this Act, and ſhall pay over all Monies ſo by them collected, and remaining in their Hands, to the ſaid Treaſurer in Manner aforeſaid; and if the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor, or any of them, ſhall refuſe or neglect to give and render a juſt, true, and perfect Account

Account or Accounts, or to pay over the Monies, remaining in his or their Hands in Manner aforeſaid, then, and in each of the ſaid Caſes, it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two or more Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, on Complaint made to them by any One or more of the ſaid Directors, and Proof thereof by the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, (which Oath the ſaid Juſtices are hereby empowered to adminiſter), by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit ſuch Churchwardens or Overſeers ſo refuſing or neglecting to give and render juſt, true, and perfect Accounts, or to pay over the Monies as aforeſaid, to the Common Gaol of the ſaid Town, there to be and remain, without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they ſhall have made and delivered ſuch Accounts as aforeſaid, and ſatisfied and paid over to the ſaid Treaſurer all ſuch Monies as upon fair and juſt Accounts ſhall appear to be and remain in his or their Hands, or until he or they ſhall compound for or ſatisfy the ſaid Directors reſpecting the Monies in his or their Hands, or the Balance of ſuch Accounts reſpectively, which Compoſition the ſaid Directors, or any Eight or more of them, are hereby empowered to make.

Aſſeſſments to be made upon the Average of the Rates.

XXXI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Sum ſo to be fixed and aſcertained by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, as the Quota of each Pariſh for the Relief and Support of the Poor in ſuch reſpective Pariſh for One Year, to be computed from the Firſt Meeting to be held in purſuance of this Act, ſhall be fixed and aſcertained upon the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, according to the Average of the Rates granted in each Pariſh for the Relief and Support of the Poor, upon an Average of Twelve Years preceding *Eaſter* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-three, which Average State is as follows: For the Pariſh of *Saint Paul*, Eight hundred and nine Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Ten-pence; for the Pariſh of *Saint Mary*, Two hundred and forty-one Pounds Seven Shillings and Three-pence; for the Pariſh of *Saint John*, Sixty Pounds Seven Shillings and Five-pence; for the Pariſh of *Saint Peter*, One hundred and thirty-eight Pounds Eight Shillings and Ten-pence; and for the Pariſh of *Saint Cuthbert*, One hundred and two Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Five-pence; amounting in the Whole to the Sum of One thouſand three hundred and fifty-two Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Nine-pence; and that all future Sums to be raiſed for the Relief, Support, or on Account of the Poor in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, or for any other Purpoſes of this Act, as the Yearly Quota or Share which each Pariſh ſhall raiſe and pay, ſhall from Time to Time be fixed and aſcertained by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, in Proportion and according to ſuch Average as aforeſaid.

Pariſh Officers to aſſiſt in the Execution of the Act.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor for the Time being of all and every the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, ſhall from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter aid and aſſiſt the ſaid Directors to the beſt of their Power, and ſhall at all Times obey their Orders and Notices relative to the Execution of this Act; and in caſe any Churchwarden or Overſeer of the Poor ſhall refuſe or neglect to aſſeſs and levy the Sum and Sums of Money that from Time to Time ſhall be fixed and aſcertained by the ſaid Directors upon any of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, or to pay ſuch Sum and Sums of Money at the Time and Place appointed, according to the Requiſitions of

the ſaid Directors made in purſuance of this Act, or to obey any ſuch Order or Orders, Notice or Notices as aforeſaid, every Churchwarden or Overſeer of the Poor ſo neglecting or refuſing ſhall be ſummoned, by Writing under the Hands of any Five or more of the ſaid Directors, to appear at the next Meeting of the ſaid Directors to be holden as aforeſaid, and if any ſuch Churchwarden or Overſeer of the Poor ſo ſummoned ſhall neglect or refuſe to appear at ſuch Meeting, or if appearing ſhall not ſufficiently excuſe or juſtify himſelf, but ſhall be adjudged by the Directors at ſuch Meeting to have made Default in any of the Matters aforeſaid, then and in every ſuch Caſe ſuch Churchwarden or Overſeer of the Poor ſo offending ſhall forfeit and pay for every ſuch Offence any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, nor leſs than Five Pounds, to be levied, in caſe of Non-payment thereof on Demand, by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, and ſuch Forfeitures ſhall be paid to the Treaſurer to the ſaid Corporation, and applied for the Purpoſes of this Act.

Directors to appoint Conſtables.

XXXIII. And, for the more effectual Execution of this Act, be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors, at any General Quarterly Meeting, from Time to Time to appoint One or more proper Perſon or Perſons, not exceeding Five Perſons, who ſhall be willing to accept and execute ſuch Office, to be a Conſtable or Conſtables within the ſaid Town of *Bedford* for the ſeveral Purpoſes of this Act, and the Perſon or Perſons ſo appointed, having taken the uſual Oath required to be taken by Conſtables, (which Oath any Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford* is empowered to adminiſter) is and are hereby empowered to act as a Conſtable or Conſtables, within the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, in all Caſes relating to the Execution of this Act, as fully as any Petty Conſtable within the ſame can or may act therein.

Pariſh Officers may raiſe Money beſides the Sums requiſite for the Purpoſes of this Act.

XXXIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act ſhall extend to hinder or prevent the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of any of the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes from aſſeſſing and raiſing any Sum or Sums of Money to make any Payment or Payments which is or may be required by any Law to be made out of the Poors Rates, but ſuch Sum and Sums ſhall and may be aſſeſſed and raiſed for ſuch Purpoſes, over and above the Sums aſſeſſed and required to be raiſed by the ſaid Directors, and ſhall be accounted for in ſuch Manner as if this Act had not been made: Provided alſo, that the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, may, if they think neceſſary, allow the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes to retain in their Hands, out of the Money by them collected, ſuch Sums as the ſaid Directors ſhall think proper, to be by ſuch Churchwardens and Overſeers applied occaſionally for the Relief and Support of ſuch Poor as cannot, on Account of Sickneſs or ſome Accident, be removed to the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, or for defraying the Charges of burying the Dead, or Expences which may be incurred in the Removal of Paupers to their legal Settlements, and the ſaid Churchwardens and Overſeers ſhall keep a diſtinct and ſeparate Account of all Sums of Money ſo by them from Time to Time paid and applied, and produce and deliver the ſame to the Treaſurer to the ſaid Corporation,

tion, at the Time and Place to be ſpecified in the Warrants of the Directors for the paying the Sums ſo fixed and aſcertained, and ſhall be accounted for as Caſh in the Account of the Churchwardens or Overſeers producing and delivering the ſame.

Property of the Furniture, &c. veſted in the Corporation.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Building and Buildings to be erected purſuant to the Directions of this Act, with the Appurtenances, and all and every the Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Furniture, Proviſions, Cloaths, Linen, and Wearing Apparel, Tools, Utenſils, and Materials whatſoever, to be from Time to Time had, made, bought, uſed, or provided, for the Uſe of the ſaid Poor, and for carrying into Execution the ſeveral Purpoſes of this Act, and alſo all Debts due to the ſaid Corporation for the Poors Work, or otherwiſe, ſhall be and are hereby abſolutely veſted in the ſaid Corporation for the Purpoſes of this Act, and the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to commence and proſecute Actions, in the Name of the ſaid Corporation, againſt any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall diſturb them in the Poſſeſſion thereof, or any Part thereof; and that if any Perſon ſhall by open Violence or maliciouſly obſtruct the repairing or erecting ſuch Houſe or other Buildings, or the incloſing any ſuch Lands or Grounds as aforeſaid, or wilfully damage any ſuch Buildings, or the Fences of ſuch Incloſures, or of any other Lands or Grounds ſo to be purchaſed as aforeſaid, every Perſon ſo offending ſhall be ſubject and liable to the like Pains and Penalties as in Caſes of Felony, and the Court by and before whom ſuch Perſon ſhall be tried ſhall have hereby Power and Authority to cauſe ſuch Perſon to be puniſhed in like Manner as Felons are directed to be puniſhed by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, or in Mitigation of ſuch Puniſhment ſuch Court may, if they think fit, award ſuch Sentence as the Law directs in Caſes of Petit Larceny; and if any of the Poor who ſhall be received in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry ſhall be found guilty of any of the Offences aforeſaid, or of wilfully deſtroying or ſpoiling any of the aforeſaid Effects, and ſhall be convicted thereof before any Five or more of the ſaid Directors, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors to order ſuch Confinement, or Corporal Puniſhment of ſuch Offenders, in the Place of Correction, inſtead of any Proſecution, as they ſhall think proper, and in caſe he or ſhe ſhall have abſconded, may, by Warrant under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, cauſe ſuch Perſon to be apprehended in any City, Town, County, or Place, in *Great Britain*, and to be conveyed to the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, there to be confined and puniſhed as aforeſaid; and in caſe any Perſon or Perſons ſhall knowingly buy or receive, or cauſe to be bought or received, or ſhall otherwiſe take into his, her, or their, Cuſtody or Power, any of the aforeſaid Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Furniture, Proviſions, Cloaths, Linen, Wearing Apparel, Tools, Utenſils, or Materials whatſoever, from or by Means or Connivance of any of the Poor under the Care and Management of the ſaid Directors, or from any other Perſon or Perſons, without the Privity and Conſent of the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, knowing the ſame to belong to the ſaid Corporation; or in caſe any Perſon or Perſons ſhall receive, entertain, keep, or conceal, any Poor Perſon who ſhall have been under the Care of the ſaid Directors, knowing they have abſconded, eloped, or deſerted, from the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry without their Privity and Conſent, every ſuch

Puniſhing poor Perſons ſpoiling the Property.

Puniſhing Perſons buying or receiving Cloaths, &c. from the Poor.

Puniſhing Perſons who conceal Poor eloping from the Houſe.

Perſon ſo offending, and being thereof convicted on his or her own Confeſſion, or upon the Oath of any One credible Witneſs, or upon the Oath of any Poor Perſon who ſhall have ſold, pawned, or delivered, any of ſuch Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Apparel, Materials, or Things, or that ſhall have eloped as aforeſaid, before any One Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or of the Place where the Offender ſhall dwell, (which Oath any ſuch Juſtice is hereby empowered to adminiſter), ſhall forfeit and pay for every ſuch Offence the Sum of Five Pounds, over and above the Value of the Goods, Materials, or Things, ſo bought, received, or taken, into his, her, or their Cuſtody, (the Value of which ſhall be eſtimated at the Price the ſame originally coſt when new), for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, to be recovered and levied, if not paid upon Demand, by Diſtreſs and Sale of the proper Goods and Chattels of any ſuch Offender or Offenders, together with the Charges of every ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of ſuch Juſtice before whom ſuch Conviction ſhall be made as aforeſaid, and for Want of ſuch Diſtreſs it ſhall be lawful for the ſame, or any other Juſtice having Juriſdiction, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to apprehend any ſuch Offender or Offenders, and to commit him, her, or them, to the Common Gaol of the City, Town, or County, where ſuch Perſon ſhall be apprehended, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unleſs Payment of the aforeſaid Sums of Money, and the Charges attending the Conviction, Purſuit, and Commitment, of ſuch Offender, (ſuch Charges to be aſcertained by ſuch Juſtice), ſhall be ſooner paid, or until the Offender ſhall have compounded for the ſame, and paid ſuch Compoſition to ſuch Perſon as the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall direct and appoint to receive the ſame, which Compoſition the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, are hereby empowered to make.

No Buſineſs to be done by Directors but at Meetings.

XXXVI. And be it further enacted, That no Buſineſs hereby directed to be done or tranſacted by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall be by them done or tranſacted but at Meetings to be held in purſuance of this Act; and if at any Time a ſufficient Number of Directors ſhall not meet at the Time and Place appointed for holding their reſpective Meetings as aforeſaid, every Director who ſhall not attend at ſuch Meeting ſhall, for every ſuch Default, forfeit any Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings, as ſhall be adjudged by the major Part of the Directors preſent at ſuch Meeting, ſuch Sum, if not paid upon Demand, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of ſuch Director, for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, by Order of the Juſtices of the Peace at the next General Quarter Seſſions to be holden for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, unleſs ſufficient Reaſon ſhall be given for the Non attendance of ſuch Directors, to be allowed by the Juſtices at ſuch Seſſions; and whenever there ſhall not appear a ſufficient Number of Directors, at any of their Meetings, to fix and aſcertain the Sum or Sums to be raiſed for the ſeveral Purpoſes of this Act, that then and in ſuch Caſe the ſame Sums, Quotas, and Rates, ſhall be aſſeſſed and collected in ſuch reſpective Pariſhes for the enſuing Year as were raiſed in the preceding Year, and ſhall be paid to the ſaid Treaſurer, in ſuch Manner as is hereinbefore directed with reſpect to the Rates and Aſſeſſments to be made, raiſed, and collected, by the ſaid reſpective Churchwardens and Overſeers,

ſeers, in the laſt preceding Year, by or under the Orders of the ſaid Directors.

Directors may grant Certificates.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted, That after the Poor, within the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes ſhall be under the Care of the ſaid Corporation, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors, at any of their Meetings, to grant Certificates, under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, to any Perſon whoſe legal Settlement ſhall be in any One of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, and who ſhall be willing to remove, or who ſhall have removed out of the Pariſh to which ſuch Perſons reſpectively belong; which reſpective Certificates, under the Common Seal of the ſaid Corporation, atteſted by the Clerk of the ſaid Corporation for the Time being, ſhall be good and valid to all Intents and Purpoſes, and no Certificate whatſoever, granted within the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes by any other Perſon or Perſons, ſhall be valid or of any Effect; any Law, Statute, or Cuſtom, to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Certificates received by the Pariſhes to be delivered to the Clerk to the Corporation.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That as ſoon as the Poor ſhall be under the Government of the ſaid Corporation as aforeſaid, all Certificates which have been delivered to, and remain in the Cuſtody of, the reſpective Pariſh Officers, within the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, by or from Perſons reſiding in the ſaid reſpective Pariſhes, ſhall be delivered forthwith, by ſuch Officers, to the Clerk for the Time being to the ſaid Corporation; and all Certificates which hereafter ſhall be delivered to the ſaid reſpective Pariſh Officers by Perſons coming to reſide or reſiding in the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, ſhall from Time to Time be delivered, within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof, by ſuch reſpective Officers to the Clerk for the Time being to the ſaid Corporation, who ſhall cauſe the ſame to be filed, ſo that Recourſe may be had thereto at any future Time; and if any of the Pariſh Officers of any of the ſaid Pariſhes ſhall ſuffer any Perſon or Perſons whoſe legal Settlement is not within the ſame, to inhabit or reſide within any ſuch Pariſh, without producing and delivering to them a Certificate from the Place of his, her, or their, laſt legal Settlement, or giving Notice thereof to the ſaid Directors at ſome of their Weekly Meetings, within Forty Days next after ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall come to reſide or inhabit within any ſuch Pariſh, and ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall afterwards become chargeable to the ſame, that then the whole Charge and Expence which ſhall be occaſioned by or on Account of ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall be defrayed by the Inhabitants of ſuch particular Pariſh, without the Aſſiſtance of the ſaid Corporation; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary hereof notwithſtanding.

Bonds reſpecting Baſtard Children to be given to the Directors by the Pariſh Officers.

XXXIX. And be it further enacted, That all Bonds already given to Pariſh Officers within the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, for indemnifying ſuch Pariſhes from any Charge which may ariſe from Baſtard Children, ſhall be forthwith delivered, by ſuch reſpective Officers, to the Clerk to the ſaid Corporation, and it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, to ſue on ſuch Bonds in the Name of the ſaid Corporation, and they ſhall recover the Penalties thereof, as if ſuch Bonds had been originally made to them; and all Bonds hereafter to be given for the ſame or the like Purpoſe ſhall be made to the ſaid

Corporation only; any Law, Statute, or Cuſtom, to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Directors empowered to make Bye Laws.

XL. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors ſhall and may, and they hereby have full Power and Authority from Time to Time, to make ſuch Bye Laws, Rules, Orders, and Conſtitutions, as well for the Benefit of the ſaid Corporation, and for the better governing, employing, and ſupporting the Poor of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, as for effecting the Purpoſes of this Act, and alſo to conſtitute and appoint ſuch and ſo many Committees, to conſiſt of ſuch a Number of the ſaid Directors as ſhall be thought fit, for the more eaſy and effectual Execution of the ſeveral Truſts and Powers by this Act repoſed and veſted in the ſaid Corporation, and from Time to Time afterwards to repeal, alter, or amend ſuch Bye Laws, Rules, Orders, and Conſtitutions, as to them the ſaid Directors ſhall ſeem meet, ſo that no ſuch Bye Laws, Rules, Orders, and Conſtitutions, be repugnant to Law: Provided always, that no ſuch Bye Law, Rule, Order, or Conſtitution, ſhall be made, amended, altered, or repealed, unleſs a Motion for that Purpoſe ſhall be made and entered in the Books, and unleſs a ſubſequent Meeting ſhall be called for the expreſs Purpoſe of conſidering ſuch Motion; and Notice of the Time and Purpoſe for holding ſuch Meeting ſhall be given to the Directors by the Clerk of the ſaid Corporation, at leaſt Eight Days before the Time of holding the ſame, nor unleſs Seven of the Directors ſhall be preſent, and the major Part of them ſhall give their Aſſent thereto.

The induſtrious Poor may be rewarded.

XLI. And, to the End that all poor Perſons in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, who are able to work, may be encouraged to employ themſelves with Diligence to ſuch Work as they ſhall be employed in; be it further enacted, That out of the Profits ariſing to the ſaid Corporation from the Work which ſhall be done by ſuch poor Perſons, 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 at any Meetings aſſembled ſhall appear reaſonable, ſo as no Part of the Money ſo diſtributed ſhall be expended in the Purchaſe of unwholeſome or unneceſſary Liquors, the drinking of which by any of the ſaid poor Perſons, the ſaid Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, are hereby ſtrictly enjoined to prohibit and prevent.

The Poor in any Alms Houſe not to be under the Regulations of this Act.

XLII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, ſhall not in anywiſe extend to give the ſaid Corporation any Power or Authority over any Alms Houſe, Hoſpital, Publick School, or other Building of Special Donation whatſoever, within any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, already given, ſettled, or erected, or hereafter to be given, ſettled, or erected, nor any Power or Authority over any of the Poor dwelling therein, or receiving the Benefit of any ſuch Alms Houſe, or other charitable Donation; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

All charitable Donations not particularly appropriated,

XLIII. And it is hereby further enacted, That all Benefactions, Donations, Sum and Sums of Money whatſoever, which ſhall hereafter be given by any charitable and well-diſpoſed Perſon or Perſons, for and to the

the Uſe of the Poor of and belonging to all or any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, not being directed to be applied for the Support of any private or particular Poor or Charity, or by Donation particularly appropriated, (not being Sacramental Money), ſhall from Time to Time, from and after the Firſt Meeting of the ſaid Corporation, in purſuance of this Act, be had, taken, and received, by the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of all ſuch reſpective Pariſhes, or any of them, or in caſe of any Default of ſuch Churchwarden or Overſeer, by ſuch Perſon as ſhall be appointed by the ſaid Corporation, at the uſual and proper Times of Payment, and ſhall from Time to Time be paid, by the Perſon receiving the ſame, to the Treaſurer to the ſaid Corporation, for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, and the ſaid ſeveral Sums of Money and Donations ſo paid ſhall be placed to the Credit Account of all the ſaid Pariſhes; and in caſe any ſuch Churchwarden or Overſeer ſhall refuſe or neglect to receive and pay ſuch Money as aforeſaid, within the Space of Ten Days after being thereunto required by Order of the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſuch Churchwardens or Overſeers ſo neglecting or refuſing, and not ſhewing reaſonable Cauſe for ſuch Neglect or Refuſal, to the Satisfaction of the ſaid Directors, at their next following Meeting, ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay, to the Uſe of the Corporation, any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds nor leſs than Five Pounds, at the Diſcretion of ſuch Directors; and a Liſt of all ſuch Donors and Contributors, and an Account of the Sums and Donations reſpectively given and contributed, ſhall be affixed in ſome conſpicuous Part of the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry.

to be paid to the Treaſurer.

XLIV. And it is hereby further enacted, That all Gifts, Grants, and other charitable Benefactions whatſoever, to or to the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, ſhall be laid out and applied by the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, according to the Direction of every Donor or Benefactor, and where there ſhall be no ſuch particular Direction, then to the Uſe of the Poor of all the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, according to the Rules herein preſcribed, and that the ſaid Directors, or any Five or more of them, ſhall and may, and they have hereby full Power, at any Meeting, to elect or chuſe any ſuch charitable Perſon or Benefactor to be a Guardian of the Poor, and who ſhall be and continue to act as One of the ſaid Guardians, in a corporate Capacity, for ſuch Time as the ſaid Directors ſhall at ſuch Meeting direct and appoint.

Charitable Benefactions paid to the Directors, to be paid according to the Will of the Donor.

XLV. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Directors ſhall cauſe all Contracts which ſhall be made for the Purchaſe or Hire of any Houſe or Houſes, or that ſhall be made with any Artificers, Workmen, or other Perſons to be employed in and about the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, and all Receipts, Payments, Debts, Credits, Matters, and Things relating thereto, appertaining to the ſaid Corporation, and all Proceedings of their Meetings, to be fairly written and entered by the Clerk or Clerks to the ſaid Corporation, in a Book to be provided for that Purpoſe.

Directors to cauſe Entries to be made of all their Proceedings.

XLVI. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Books, Papers, and Accounts whatſoever, of and belonging to the ſaid Corporation, ſhall and may be produced at any of the ſaid Meetings, upon the reaſonable Requeſt and previous Notice of any Inhabitant or other Perſon rated to or paying in reſpect of his or her Eſtates in any of the ſaid ſeveral

All Books and Papers relating to the Execution of the Act, may be in-

ſpected by Perſons paying to the Rates.

Pariſhes to the Relief of the Poor, for his or her Peruſal or Inſpection, and the Perſon making ſuch Inſpection ſhall then and there be at Liberty to proteſt and declare his or her Objections to, or Obſervations upon, any particular Charges, Rates, Matters, or Proceedings whatſoever therein contained, and the ſame ſhall be heard and taken into Conſideration by the Directors then aſſembled; and in caſe the Directors cannot then finally ſettle and determine the Matter objected unto, to the Satisfaction of the Party or Parties making ſuch Objections, that then the ſame ſhall be adjourned over to the next following Meeting of the ſaid Directors, to be then finally heard and determined.

Poor born or maintained in the Houſe of Induſtry not to gain a Settlement thereby.

XLVII. And be it further enacted, That no Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, received, maintained, educated, or employed within, or born in the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry, or any Place or Places thereunto belonging, ſhall gain any Settlement in the Pariſh wherein ſuch Houſe of Induſtry, Place or Places, is, are, or ſhall be ſituate, by Reaſon of his, her, or their being ſo received, maintained, educated, or employed, or of being born therein as aforeſaid; any Law, Cuſtom, Uſage, Matter, or Thing, to the contrary notwithſtanding.

For aſcertaining the Settlements of Baſtard Children.

XLVIII. And be it further enacted, That no Baſtard Child, born of the Body of any poor Woman whoſe legal Settlement is in any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, (other than the Pariſh in which the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry ſhall be ſituate, and who ſhall be under the Care and Government of the ſaid Directors), ſhall gain or be entitled to gain any Settlement in the Pariſh in which the ſaid Houſe of Induſtry is ſituate, and where ſuch Baſtard ſhall be born, unleſs ſuch Pariſh ſhall happen to be the proper Pariſh and Place of Settlement of the Mother, but that the Settlement of every Baſtard ſhall follow that of the Mother, as fully as if ſuch Baſtard had been born in ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, to which the Settlement of ſuch Mother ſhall belong, and ſhall be deemed as One of the Poor thereof to all Intents and Purpoſes; nevertheleſs, it ſhall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overſeers of the Poor of every Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, to which the Settlement of every ſuch Woman ſhall belong, to have and take, and they are hereby entitled to have ſuch Remedy againſt the Mother and Father of any ſuch Baſtard reſpectively, for indemnifying the ſaid Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, from any Charge by Reaſon of any ſuch Baſtard Child, and otherwiſe in all Reſpects, as the Law directs in Caſes of Baſtardy, and as fully and effectually as if ſuch Baſtard had been actually born in the Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, to which the Mother's Settlement ſhall belong; and alſo that any Five or more of the ſaid Directors, or any One Juſtice of the Peace of the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, ſhall and may, and they have hereby Authority, at the End of One Calendar Month from the Time of the Delivery of each Woman, or at any Time after ſhe ſhall have declared on Oath who the Father of ſuch Child is, in caſe he ſhall be One of the Poor under the Care of the ſaid Directors, to ſet and inflict, or cauſe to be inflicted, ſuch reaſonable Puniſhment on ſuch Mother and ſuch Father, either by Confinement or hard Labour, Abatement of Diet, or Diſtinction in Dreſs, as the ſaid Directors, or Juſtice of the Peace, ſhall think fit and proper to direct.

Pariſh Officers not to appeal againſt

XLIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in caſe any Pauper ſhall be removed by an Order, to any of the ſaid Pariſhes, as the Place

Place of his or her legal Settlement, from and out of any other Parish or Place, at any Time after the Poor shall be under the Care of the said Corporation, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, to whom such Removal shall be made, shall not commence or prosecute any Appeal against such Order of Removal, without the Consent and Approbation of the said Directors first obtained; and that the Costs and Charges attending any Appeal with such Consent and Approbation shall be paid and borne by and out of the Money to be raised by virtue of this Act, and not by the particular Parish who shall appeal as aforesaid.

Removals without Consent of Directors.

L. And be it further enacted, That no Person shall, by Reason of his being rated in, or contributing to the Assessments hereby directed to be made by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor as aforesaid, be thereby incapacitated or prevented from being a competent Witness before the said Directors, or before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, or upon any Trial, Hearing, Examination, or otherwise, concerning the Settlement of any Pauper either removed from or to any of the said Parishes, or otherwise, in, about, touching, or concerning, the Execution of this Act; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Persons paying to the Rates not thereby to be disqualified from giving Evidence respecting the Act.

LI. And be it further enacted, That in case it shall at any Time or Times happen, that, by Reason of the Labour and Employment of the Poor of the said several Parishes in the said House of Industry, there shall arise and increase such Benefit and Profit as shall, in the Judgement of the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, be more than sufficient of itself to maintain or employ the Poor in such House of Industry for a Time not less than One Year to come, that then and so often as the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, shall find such clear Benefit, Profit, and Increase, no Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever shall be rated or collected upon or from any of the Inhabitants of the said several Parishes, for the Use of the said Corporation, or the Poor under their Management, by virtue of any Precept from the said Directors, or otherwise; and all such Benefit, Profit, and Increase, so from Time to Time to arise, shall be, and is hereby vested in the said Directors, for the Use of the said Corporation, with Power to place all such Surplus Money as shall arise from such Profits of Labour (after deducting thereout the Charge of maintaining and employing the Poor as aforesaid) at Interest, or to lay out the same in the Purchase of Lands of Inheritance, and to assign or alienate any such Lands, or otherwise to manage the same for the future Advantage of the said Corporation, as they shall from Time to Time think proper.

The Rates not to be collected when the Poor earn enough for their own Maintenance.

LII. And it is hereby further enacted, That all pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures imposed or made payable by virtue of this Act, to the Use of the said Corporation, and also all other Penalties and Forfeitures whatsoever herein mentioned, (not otherwise directed to be levied by this Act), or which shall be inflicted or imposed by virtue of any Bye Law or Ordinance of the said Corporation, shall and may be severally recovered and levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Person or Persons liable to pay the same, by Warrant or Warrants under the Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, of any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Town of *Bedford*, (which Justices are

Recovery and Application of Penalties.

hereby empowered and required to grant), together with the Coſts and Charges of ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale (ſuch Coſts and Charges to be aſcertained by ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices); and in caſe no ſufficient Diſtreſs ſhall be found, then it ſhall be lawful for any Juſtice or Juſtices for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to apprehend or cauſe to be apprehended any ſuch Offender or Offenders, and to commit him, her, or them, to the Common Gaol of the ſaid Town, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for ſuch Time as the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices ſhall direct, not exceeding Six, nor leſs than Three Calendar Months, unleſs he, ſhe, or they, ſhall ſooner pay ſuch Penalties or Forfeitures, and all Charges attending the ſame; and ſuch of the aforeſaid Penalties and Forfeitures as ſhall be ſo recovered for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, ſhall be paid to their Treaſurer for the Time being, to be applied for the Purpoſes of this Act.

LIII. And be it further enacted, That all and every Juſtice and Juſtices of the Peace, before whom any Perſon or Perſons ſhall be convicted of any Offence againſt this Act, ſhall and may cauſe the Conviction to be drawn in the following Form, or to the like Effect:

Form of Conviction.

'BE it remembered, That on the Day of in the Year of our Lord *A. B.* 'is convicted before of His 'Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the Town of *Bedford*, [*Here ſpecify 'the Offence, and the Time and Place when and where the ſame ſhall be com-'mitted, as the Caſe ſhall be.*] Given under my Hand and Seal [*or*, our 'Hands and Seals] the Day and Year above written.'

Appeal allowed.

LIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any Perſon ſhall think himſelf or herſelf aggrieved by any Aſſeſſment to be made purſuant to the Powers hereby given, or ſhall have any Objection to any Perſons being put in or left out of ſuch Aſſeſſment, or to the Sum charged on any Perſon or Perſons therein, or ſhall think himſelf or herſelf aggrieved by any Thing done in purſuance of this Act, and for which no particular Method of Relief hath been already appointed, ſuch Perſon may appeal to the ſaid Directors, or any Seven or more of them, at any Weekly Meeting to be held within Fourteen Days after the Cauſe of ſuch Complaint ſhall have ariſen, ſuch Appellant firſt giving or cauſing to be given Four Days Notice of his or her Intention to appeal, and of the Matter thereof, to the Clerk to the ſaid Corporation, and the ſaid Directors, upon Proof of ſuch Notice, ſhall hear and determine the Cauſes and Matters of ſuch Appeal in a ſummary Way; but in caſe either of the Parties ſhall be diſſatisfied with the Determination of the ſaid Directors, or in caſe there ſhall not be Seven Directors preſent at ſuch Meeting, ſuch Party may in that Caſe appeal to the Juſtices of the Peace at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, or for the County of *Bedford*, next after ſuch Meeting of the ſaid Directors, (in caſe there ſhall be ſufficient Time to give due Notice of the ſaid Appeal), or otherwiſe at the Second Seſſions next after the ſaid Determination, the Juſtices before whom ſuch Appeal ſhall be brought and lodged having Juriſdiction within the Pariſh or Place in which the Cauſe of Appeal ſhall ariſe, ſuch Appellant firſt giving, or cauſing to be given, Ten Days Notice at leaſt in Writing, of his or her Intention

Intention to bring ſuch Appeal, and of the Matter thereof, to the Clerk to the ſaid Corporation, and within Four Days after ſuch Notice entering into a Recognizance before ſome Juſtice of the Peace for the ſaid Town of *Bedford*, with Two ſufficient Sureties conditioned to try ſuch Appeal, and abide the Order, and pay ſuch Coſts as ſhall be awarded by the Juſtices at ſuch Quarter Seſſions; and the ſaid Juſtices at ſuch Seſſions, upon due Proof of ſuch Notice being given as is laſt mentioned, and of the entering into ſuch Recognizance, ſhall hear and finally determine the Cauſes and Matters of every ſuch Appeal in a ſummary Way, and award ſuch Coſts to the Party appealing or appealed againſt, as they the ſaid Juſtices ſhall think proper, and the Determination of ſuch Quarter Seſſions ſhall be finally binding and concluſive to all Intents and Purpoſes.

Appeals not to ſuſpend the Payment of Rates.

LV. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That no ſuch Appeal ſhall extend to protract, ſuſpend, or delay the Payment of any Sum or Sums of Money by the ſaid Directors required to be raiſed and paid as herein-before mentioned, but the ſame ſhall be raiſed at the reſpective Times ſpecified in the Order of the ſaid Directors, notwithſtanding any ſuch Appeal is pending; and in caſe the Juſtices before whom ſuch Appeal ſhall be heard ſhall be of Opinion that any Pariſh appealing is aggrieved with reſpect to the Quota to be raiſed and paid by ſuch Pariſh, and ſhall make an Order accordingly, then the ſaid Directors ſhall, and they are hereby enjoined (within Ten Days next after Notice in Writing of ſuch Order given to the Clerk to the ſaid Corporation) to refund to the Churchwardens or Overſeers of the Poor of the Pariſh in reſpect of which ſuch Appeal ſhall be brought, ſuch Sum of Money as the ſaid Juſtices, by their Order, ſhall determine to exceed the juſt Proportion that ſuch Pariſh ought to raiſe and pay.

Proceedings not to be quaſhed for Want of Form.

LVI. And be it further enacted, That no Order made touching or concerning any of the Matters aforeſaid, or any other Proceedings to be had touching the Conviction of any Offender or Offenders againſt this Act, ſhall be quaſhed for Want of Form, or be removed or removable by *Certiorari*, or any other Writ or Proceſs whatſoever, into any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at *Weſtminſter*; and that where any Diſtreſs ſhall be made for any Sum or Sums of Money to be levied by virtue of this Act, or by virtue of any Bye Law of the ſaid Corporation, ſuch Diſtreſs ſhall not be deemed unlawful, nor ſhall the Party or Parties making the ſame be deemed a Treſpaſſer or Treſpaſſers on Account of any Defect or Want of Form, or any other Irregularity in the Summons, Conviction, Order, Warrant, or other Proceedings relating thereto, nor ſhall the Party or Parties making the ſame be deemed a Treſpaſſer or Treſpaſſers *ab initio* on Account of any Irregularity which ſhall be afterwards done by the Party or Parties diſtraining; but the Perſon or Perſons aggrieved by any ſuch Irregularity ſhall and may recover Satisfaction for the Special Damage only in an Action upon the Caſe.

For paying the Expences of the Act.

LVII. And be it further enacted, That all the Charges and Expences incident to and attending the obtaining and paſſing of this Act, ſhall be borne and paid out of the Firſt Money to be raiſed or borrowed by virtue of this Act, and that if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall in the mean Time advance any Money towards paying the Expences of obtaining and paſſing

ing this Act, lawful Intereſt for the ſame ſhall be allowed and paid to the Perſon or Perſons ſo advancing ſuch Money.

Limitation of Actions.

LVIII. And be it further enacted, That no Action or Suit ſhall be commenced or brought againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any Thing done in purſuance of this Act, or any of the Powers hereby given, or in anywiſe relating thereto, until Twenty-one Days Notice ſhall have been thereof given, in Writing, to the Clerk or Treaſurer to the ſaid Corporation, nor after Satisfaction or Tender of Amends ſhall have been made; and every ſuch Action or Suit ſhall be commenced or brought within the Space of Six Calendar Months next after the Cauſe of Complaint ſhall have ariſen, and not afterwards, and ſhall be laid and brought in the County of *Bedford*, and not elſewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action or Suit ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence on any Trial to be had thereupon; and if it ſhall appear to be done in purſuance of this Act, or that ſuch Action or Suit ſhall be brought before Twenty-one Days Notice thereof given as aforeſaid, or before the Time herein-before limited for bringing the ſame, or ſhall be brought in any other County or Place than as before limited, then the Jury ſhall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon ſuch Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ſhall be nonſuited, or ſhall 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 Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants ſhall and may recover Treble Coſts, and have and be entitled to the like Remedy for the ſame as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Coſts of Suit in any other Caſes by Law.

Publick Act.

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

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FINIS.