ANNO TRICESIMO SEXTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXI.

An Act to prevent unlawful Combinations of Workmen employed in the Paper Manufactory.

[18th *May* 1796.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS great Numbers of Journeymen Paper Makers, in various Parts of this Kingdom, have lately entered into unlawful Meetings and Combinations to obtain an unreaſonable Advance of their Wages, and for other illegal Purpoſes, and the Laws at preſent in Force againſt ſuch unlawful Conduct have been found to be inadequate to the Suppreſſion thereof, whereby it is become neceſſary that more effectual Proviſion ſhould be made againſt ſuch unlawful Combinations, and for preventing ſuch unlawful Practices for the future, and for bringing all Offenders in the Premiſes to more ſpeedy and exemplary Juſtice; may it therefore pleaſe Your moſt Excellent Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, all Contracts, Covenants, and Agreements whatever, in Writing or not in Writing, at any Time or Times heretofore made or entered into, by or between any

All Contracts between Journeymen Paper Makers for advan-

cing their Wages, leſſening their Hours of Work, &c. declared void.

any Journeymen Paper Makers within this Kingdom, for obtaining an Advance of Wages, of them, or any or either of them, or of any other Journeyman or Journeymen, or for leſſening their, any or either of their uſual Hours or Quantity of Work, or for preventing or hindering any Perſon or Perſons from employing whomſoever he, ſhe, or they ſhall think proper to employ in his, her, or their aforeſaid Buſineſs of a Paper Maker, or in any Way whatever to affect any Perſon or Perſons carrying on the ſaid Trade or Buſineſs, or in the conducting thereof, ſhall be and are hereby declared to be illegal, null, and void, to all Intents and Purpoſes.

Journeymen Paper Makers and others entering into ſuch Contracts, to be committed to the Houſe of Correction.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Journeyman Paper Maker, or any other Perſon or Perſons, ſhall at any Time or Times after the paſſing of this Act, make, enter into, agree unto, or be concerned in the making of any Contract, Covenant, or Agreement, in Writing or not in Writing, in Support of or relative to ſuch Combination as aforeſaid, every Perſon ſo offending, being thereof lawfully convicted upon the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, before any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, Town, or Place, where ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, upon any Information to be exhibited in Writing, within One Month next after the Offence ſhall have been committed (which Oath the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices is and are hereby empowered and required to adminiſter) ſhall, by Order of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, at his or their Diſcretion, be committed to the Houſe of Correction within his or their Juriſdiction, there to remain and to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months.

Time of working by Vat Men and Dry Workers.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, the Time of working by Journeymen at the Vat upon all Fine, Wove, and Plate Papers, if the Maſters ſhall ſo require, ſhall be Half an Hour about each Poſt, Twenty of which Poſts ſhall and do make a Day's Work; and the Dry Worker upon all ſuch Fine Papers as aforeſaid, if the Maſters ſhall ſo require it, ſhall work Twelve Hours *per* Day, allowing an Interval of One Hour thereout to each Journeyman for Refreſhment.

Penalty on Journeymen taking more Wages, or entering into Combinations to raiſe Wages, &c.

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Journeyman Paper Maker who ſhall enter into any Combination to raiſe ſuch Wages, or to alter the Hours or Duration of Work, or for any other Purpoſe contrary to this Act, or who ſhall, by giving Money or by any other Means, directly or indirectly, ſolicit, intimidate, or endeavour to prevent any unhired Journeyman or Journeymen, or other Perſon or Perſons wanting Employment in the manufacturing of Paper from hiring himſelf or themſelves to any Paper Manufacturer, or ſhall by any Means whatſoever, directly or indirectly, decoy, ſolicit, intimidate, influence, or prevail, or attempt or endeavour to prevail on any Journeyman Paper Maker, hired or employed, or to be hired or employed in ſuch Manufacture, to quit or leave his or her Service, or ſhall proſcribe, hinder, or prevent, or attempt to proſcribe, hinder, or prevent, any Maſter or Miſtreſs in ſuch Art or Myſtery from employing whomſoever he, ſhe, or they ſhall think proper in ſuch Manufactory,

nufactory, or being retained or employed ſhall refuſe to work with any Perſon whomſoever which any ſuch Maſter or Miſtreſs in ſuch Art or Myſtery ſhall think proper to employ, and ſhall be convicted of any or either of the ſaid Offences, on the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, before any One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace within any or either of the Diſtricts or Juriſdictions aforeſaid where the Offence ſhall be committed, ſuch Offender or Offenders ſhall be committed to the Houſe of Correction, in the County or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed, to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months.

If any Perſon ſhall attend or ſolicit any Journeyman Paper Maker to attend any unlawful Meeting, or ſhall ſubſcribe or pay any Sum of Money to ſupport the ſame, he may be committed for Two Months.

V. And, for the more effectual Suppreſſion of all Combinations amongſt Journeymen Paper Makers, and other Perſons employed in the ſaid Trade, be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever (whether employed in the ſaid Trade or not) ſhall attend any Meeting or Combination by this Act declared to be illegal, or ſhall ſummons, give Notice to, or call upon, any Journeyman Paper Maker, or other Perſon employed in the ſaid Trade, to attend any ſuch unlawful Meeting or Combination, or who ſhall collect, demand, aſk, or receive, any Sum or Sums of Money from any Journeyman Paper Maker or other Perſon employed in the ſaid Trade for any of the above Purpoſes, or ſhall perſuade, entice, inveigle, or intimidate any Journeyman Paper Maker or other Perſon employed in the ſaid Trade, to enter into or be concerned in any ſuch Meeting or Combination, or to turn out againſt, or quit the Service or Employ of the Maſter or Miſtreſs Paper Maker in whoſe Service they may be employed, or if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall pay any Sum or Sums of Money, or make or enter into any Subſcription or Contribution whatſoever for or towards the Support or Encouragement of any ſuch illegal Meeting or Combination, every ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo offending, and being thereof convicted before any One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, Town, or Place wherein ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, on the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, ſhall for every ſuch Offence be committed to the Common Gaol or Houſe of Correction for ſuch County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, Town, or Place, at the Diſcretion of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, there to be and remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months.

Offenders againſt this Act to be admitted Evidence.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all and every Perſon or Perſons, who ſhall or may offend againſt this Act, ſhall and may, equally with all other Perſons, be called upon and compelled to give, and ſhall give his or her Teſtimony and Evidence as a Witneſs or Witneſſes, upon any Information to be exhibited under this Act on Behalf of the Proſecutor or Informer; and that in all and every ſuch Caſe, he, ſhe, or they ſo having given ſuch Teſtimony or Evidence, ſhall be, and hereby is and are indemnified of, from, and againſt, any Information to be laid or Proſecution to be commenced againſt him, her, or them, for having offended, in the Matter wherein ſuch Proſecution or Information, in or relative to which he, ſhe, or they ſhall ſo give Teſtimony or Evidence, was made or brought.

Justices empowered to summon Offenders, and to hear and determine.

VII. And, for the more effectually enforcing the Purposes of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That on Complaint being made on Oath to any Justice or Justices of the Peace, of any Offence committed against this Act within his or their respective Jurisdictions, such Justice or Justices is and are hereby required and authorized to issue his or their Summons, to summon the Person or Persons charged with being an Offender or Offenders against this Act, and also to summon any Witness or Witnesses for any of the Parties, at a certain Time and Place in such Summons to be specified; and if any One so summoned shall not appear on such Summons, or offer some reasonable Excuse for the Default, then any such Justice or Justices shall issue his or their Warrant or Warrants for apprehending the Party so making Default, within the Jurisdiction of any such Justice or Justices, and upon the Party or Parties complained against appearing, or being brought before any such Justice or Justices on his or their Warrant or Warrants, or in case the Party or Parties complained against shall not appear to such Summons, being served on him, her, or them, or left for him, her, or them, at his or their usual Place of Abode, and Proof shall be made thereof by Oath before any such Justice or Justices, then every such Justice or Justices is and are hereby authorized and required to proceed to make Inquiry touching the Matters complained of, and to examine into the same, by the Oath or Oaths of any credible Person or Persons as shall be requisite, and to hear and determine the Matter of every such Complaint, and upon Confession of the Party, or Proof by One credible Witness upon Oath, to commit or acquit the Party or Parties against whom Complaint shall be made; and if any Person or Persons so summoned to appear as a Witness or Witnesses as aforesaid, shall not appear at the Time and Place appointed by such Summons, and give his, her, or their Evidence or Evidences before him or them, then and in every such Case every such Justice or Justices shall and may issue his or their Warrant or Warrants, under his Hand and Seal, or their Hands and Seals, for the Commitment of such Person to some Prison in the County, Riding, Division, City, Liberty, Town, or Place where such Witness or Witnesses shall so make Default, there to remain until such Person or Persons shall submit himself, herself, or themselves to be examined as a Witness or Witnesses as aforesaid.

The Form of the Conviction.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Justice or Justices before whom any Person shall be convicted in Manner prescribed by this Act, shall cause such respective Conviction to be drawn up in the Form or to the Effect following; (that is to say),

'BE it remembered, That on this Day of in the Year of His Majesty's Reign, *A. B.* is convicted before of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of [*or*, for the Riding, or Division, City, Liberty Town, or Place, *as the Case shall happen to be*] for and the said do hereby order and adjudge him [*or* her] to be committed to the House of Correction, to be kept to hard Labour for the Space of or until he or she shall submit to be examined, as the Case may be, without Bail or Mainprize. Given under the Day and Year aforesaid.'

And

And the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices before whom ſuch a Conviction ſhall be had, ſhall cauſe the ſame, ſo drawn up in the Form or to the Effect aforeſaid, to be fairly written upon Parchment, and tranſmitted to the next General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be held for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, Town, or Place, wherein ſuch Conviction was had, to be filed and kept amongſt the Records of the ſaid General Quarter Seſſions; and in caſe any Perſon or Perſons ſo convicted, ſhall appeal in Manner herein-after mentioned from the Judgement of the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices to the ſaid General Quarter Seſſions, the Juſtices in ſuch General Quarter Seſſions are hereby required, upon receiving the ſaid Conviction drawn up in the Form aforeſaid, to proceed to the Hearing and Determination of the Matter of the ſaid Appeal, according to the Directions of this Act, any Law, Cuſtom, or Uſage, to the contrary notwithſtanding; and no *Certiorari* ſhall be granted to remove any Conviction or other Proceedings had thereon in purſuance of this Act.

Power for Two Juſtices to iſſue Warrants to apprehend Offenders without Summons.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That in all Caſes where any Information authorized by this Act to be made before any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices, ſhall be made upon Oath of the Informer, to be taken by ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices to iſſue his or their Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, grounded upon ſuch Information ſo made upon Oath, for the Apprehenſion and bringing of the Perſon or Perſons offending or alledged to have offended againſt this Act, before him or them, or any Juſtice or Juſtices of the ſaid County there ſitting, without any previous Summons being iſſued to the Party ſo offending, or alledged to have offended, inſtead and in lieu of iſſuing of his or their Summons for his Appearance before him or them, to anſwer the Matters charged by ſuch Information.

Appeal.

X. Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Perſon convicted of any Offence or Offences puniſhable by this Act, ſhall think himſelf or herſelf aggrieved by the Judgement of the Juſtice or Juſtices before whom he or ſhe ſhall have been convicted, ſuch Perſon ſhall have Liberty to appeal, at the Time of ſuch Conviction, to the Juſtices at the then next General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace which ſhall be held for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, Town or Place where ſuch Judgement ſhall have been given; and that the Execution of the ſaid Judgement ſhall, in ſuch Caſe, be ſuſpended, the Perſon ſo convicted entering into Recognizance at the Time of ſuch Conviction, with Two ſufficient Sureties, in the Sum of Twenty Pounds of lawful Money of *Great Britain*, upon Condition to proſecute ſuch Appeal with Effect, and to be forthcoming to abide the Judgement and Determination of the Juſtices in their ſaid next General Quarter Seſſions, and to pay ſuch Coſts as the ſaid Juſtices in ſuch Seſſions ſhall award on ſuch Occaſion, which Recognizance the ſaid Juſtice and Juſtices, before whom ſuch Conviction ſhall be had, are hereby empowered and required to take; and the Juſtices in the ſaid General Quarter Seſſions, are hereby authorized and required to hear and finally to determine the Matter of the ſaid Appeal, and to award ſuch Coſts as to them ſhall appear juſt and reaſonable to be paid by either Party, which Deciſion ſhall be final; and if upon the Hearing of the ſaid Appeal, the Judgement of the Juſtice or Juſtices

before whom the Appellant ſhall have been convicted ſhall be affirmed, ſuch Appellant ſhall immediately pay ſuch Coſts as the Juſtices in the ſaid General Quarter Seſſions ſhall award to be paid, for defraying the Expences ſuſtained by the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Appeal, and ſhall be committed by the ſaid Juſtices to the Houſe of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour, or to the Common Gaol, as ſhall be mentioned in ſuch Conviction, for the Space of Two Calendar Months, or any leſs Time mentioned in ſuch Conviction, without Bail or Mainprize, and until the Payment of ſuch Coſts.

Limitation of Actions.

XI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Action or Suit ſhall be brought or commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any Thing by him, her, or them done or executed in purſuance of this Act, or for any Cauſe, Matter, or Thing therein contained, ſuch Action or Suit ſhall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Matter or Thing done, and ſhall be laid in the proper County, and the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action or Suit may plead the General Iſſue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence for his or their Defence; and if upon the Trial a Verdict ſhall paſs for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs become nonſuited, or diſcontinue his, her, or their Action or Proſecution, or Judgement ſhall be given againſt him, her, or them, upon Demurrer or otherwiſe, then ſuch Defendant or Defendants ſhall have Double Coſts awarded to him or them againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

General Iſſue.

Double Coſts.

Publick Act.

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

FINIS.