ANNO TRICESIMO SEXTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXX.

An Act for enabling the *East India* Company to perform an Engagement entered into by them, with *William Sabatier* Gentleman, respecting the Importation of Cotton from the *East Indies*.

[18th *May* 1796.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Importation of Cotton from the *East Indies*, has for some Years past been considered an Object of great Importance to the Cotton Manufactures of this Kingdom; but the same has not hitherto been imported in sufficient Quantities to answer the Demand for it by reason of the great Space which it occupies on board Ship: And whereas *William Sabatier*, of the Parish of *Saint Mary-le-bone*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Gentleman, has discovered and invented a Principle and Method of retaining Cotton, within a much less Space than heretofore, and by reducing the Freight thereof, has removed the Difficulties arising from the present Mode of packing, and thereby furnished the Power of importing the same to Advantage; which Invention the said *William Sabatier* did offer to disclose to the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*, that they might make use of the same in their Trade on suitable Recompence being made to him: And whereas the said United Company did, on the Twenty-first Day of *September* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, in order to induce the said *William Sabatier* to make known such Discovery, enter into an Engagement, whereby they bound themselves to pay to the said *William Sabatier* such Percentage as is hereinafter mentioned on all Cotton to be imported into this Kingdom by them, and by others, under their Licence; and likewise on all Cotton to be exported by them from Port to Port in *India*, or to *China*, and contained in Packages of such proportioned Measurement as is hereinafter also mentioned, and which Discovery the said *William Sabatier* did afterwards make known to the said United Company, in consequence of their said Engagement: And whereas by an Act, passed in the Thirty-third Year of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for continuing in the* East India *Company, for a further Term, the Possession of the* British *Territories in* India, *together with their exclusive Trade, under certain Limitations; for establishing further Regulations for the Government of the said Territories, and the better Administration of Justice within the same; for appropriating to certain Uses the Revenues and Profits of the said Company; and for making Provision for the good Order and Government of the Towns of* Calcutta, Madras, *and* Bombay, by which a permissive Trade is granted to Individuals, subject only to the Charges therein specified, the said

Mr. *Sabatier* has invented a Method of retaining Cotton in a much less Space than heretofore.

East India Company entered into an Engagement with him to pay a certain Percentage on all Cotton imported, &c.

By Act 33 *Geo.* III, the Company are disabled from performing their Engagements, so far as relates to the Trade of Individuals.

United Company are disabled from performing their Engagement with the said *William Sabatier*, so far as relates to the Trade of Individuals allowed by the said Act: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Court of Directors for the Time being of the said United Company shall, and they are hereby authorized and required, in addition to the Three Pounds *per Centum* already authorized to be charged by the said Acts, to charge and deduct from the Amount of the Gross Value of the Sales of all Cotton sold by them, which shall be imported into this Kingdom by Individuals, by virtue of the aforesaid Act, and retained according to the Method and Principle discovered and invented by the said *William Sabatier*, such several Percentages as hereafter mentioned; that is to say, One Half *per Centum* for Bales or other Packages of Cotton so imported and retained as aforesaid, containing the Proportion of Six hundred and sixty-four Pounds Weight or upwards, and not more than Seven hundred and eighty-four Pounds Weight, in the Space of Twenty-two Cubical Feet of Measurement, and One Pound *per Centum*, for such Bales or other Packages of Cotton containing the Proportion of Seven hundred and eighty-four Pounds Weight or upwards, in the Space aforesaid; and to pay or cause to be paid the Amount thereof to the said *William Sabatier*, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns; any Act or Acts to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Company empowered to deduct the Percentages, and pay them to Mr. *Sabatier*.

II. And be it further enacted, That the said *William Sabatier*, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, in order to authorize the said United Company to make such Charges as aforesaid, shall, on or before the intended Day or Days of Sale of all such Cotton to be sold by the said United Company, deliver to the Chief Secretary of the said United Company, a Specification or Description of such Bales or Packages as appear to him or them to be retained according to the Method or Principle discovered and invented by the said *William Sabatier*; and in case any Person or Persons to whom the said Cotton shall belong, or who shall claim the same, shall, before the Payment of either of the said Percentages, deliver in Writing their Dissent to such Payment, then, and in such Case, the said Court of Directors shall detain in their Hands the said respective Percentages from the Amount of the Gross Sale Value of the Cotton so specified or described and dissented to as aforesaid, until the said *William Sabatier*, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, and the said Claimant or Claimants, shall deliver in Writing to the Chief Secretary of the said United Company their joint Agreement for the Payment of the said respective Percentages, or until the same shall be relieved by due Course of Law, in an Action or Suit between the said *William Sabatier*, his Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, and the said Claimant or Claimants: Provided always, that the said United Company shall not be made a Party to any Action or Suit that may be instituted, to try the Right of the said Parties to the said respective Percentages.

Mr. *Sabatier* to deliver to Secretary of the Company, a Specification of the Bales retained according to his Method.

III. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall have Commencement immediately after it shall have received His Majesty's Royal Assent, and continue in Force for and during the Term of Fourteen Years.

Commencement and Continuance of the Act.

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

Publick Act.

FINIS.