ANNO TRICESIMO SEPTIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXVII.

An Act for regulating the Trade to be carried on with the *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, by the Ships of Nations in Amity with His Majeſty.

[19th *July* 1797.]

WHEREAS by an Act, paſſed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the encouraging and increaſing of Shipping and Navigation*, it was enacted, that, from and after the Firſt Day of *December* One thouſand ſix hundred and ſixty, and from thence forward, no Goods or Commodities ſhall be imported into or exported out of any Lands, Iſlands, Plantations, or Territories, to His Majeſty belonging or in His Poſſeſſion, or which may hereafter belong unto or be in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, in *Aſia*, *Africa*, and *America*, in any other Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, than ſuch as do truly and without Fraud belong unto the People of *England* or *Ireland*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, or are the Built of and belonging to any of the ſaid Lands, Iſlands, Plantations, or Territories, as the Proprietors and Right Owners thereof, and whereof the Maſter and Three Fourths of the Mariners at leaſt are *Engliſh*, under certain Penalties and Forfeitures therein mentioned: And whereas it is expedient that the Ships and Veſſels of

Preamble.

12 *Car.* II, Cap 18, recited.

of Countries and States in Amity with His Majeſty, ſhould be allowed to import Goods and Commodities unto and to export the ſame from the *Britiſh* Territories in *India*, ſubject to certain Reſtrictions and Regulations: Be it therefore 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, and during the Continuance of the excluſive Trade of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Eaſt Indies*, and during the Term for which the Poſſeſſions of the *Britiſh* Territories in *India* is ſecured to the ſaid United Company, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Ships and Veſſels of Countries and States in Amity with His Majeſty, to import into and export from the *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, ſuch Goods and Commodities as they ſhall be permitted to import into and export from the ſaid Poſſeſſions by the Directors of the ſaid Company, who are hereby directed to frame ſuch Regulations for carrying on the Trade to and from the ſaid Poſſeſſions, and the Countries and States in Amity with His Majeſty, as ſhall ſeem to them moſt conducive to the Intereſt and Proſperity of the ſaid *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, and of the *Britiſh* Empire; and no Ship or Veſſel belonging to any of the Subjects of States or Countries in Amity with His Majeſty, ſhall be liable to Seizure, Confiſcation, or Forfeiture, or other Penalty, for exporting from or importing into the ſaid *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, any Goods or Commodities, the Importation or Exportation of which reſpectively ſhall be permitted by the ſaid Regulation; any Thing in the ſaid herein-before recited Act, of the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, to the contrary notwithſtanding: Provided always, that it ſhall not be lawful for the Directors of the ſaid United Company to frame any Regulations for the Conduct of the ſaid Trade, which ſhall be inconſiſtent with any Treaty or Treaties which ſhall have been or may be entered into by His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and any Country or State at Amity with His Majeſty, or which may be inconſiſtent with any Act or Acts of Parliament which have been paſſed for the Regulation of the Trade and Commerce of the ſaid *Britiſh* Territories in *India*.

Veſſels of Countries in Amity with His Majeſty may import into and export from the *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, Goods permitted by the *Eaſt India* Directors, not contrary to Treaties or Law.

II. And be it further enacted, That all ſuch Regulations as ſhall be framed by the ſaid Court of Directors, for carrying on the Trade to and from the *Britiſh* Poſſeſſions in *India*, and the Countries and States in Amity with His Majeſty, ſhall be and they are hereby directed to be ſubject to the Superintendance, Direction, and Controul of the Board of Commiſſioners for the Affairs of *India*, in the ſame Manner as all Acts, Operations, and Concerns, which anywiſe relate to or concern the Civil and Military Governments and Revenues of the *Britiſh* Territories and Acquiſitions in the *Eaſt Indies* now are.

Regulations framed by the Directors to be ſubject to the Controul of the Board of Commiſſioners.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall not be lawful for any General Court of Proprietors to alter or change, or to direct, or order, or authorize, the altering or changing, any Reſolution of the Court of Directors, or to reſcind, revoke, ſuſpend, or vary the ſame, in ſo far as the ſame relates to the Intercourſe of Foreign Nations in Amity with His Majeſty and the *Britiſh* Territories in *India*.

Court of Proprietors not to alter any Reſolution of the Directors relating to Intercourſe of Foreign Nations in Amity with His Majeſty and the *Britiſh* Territories in *India*.

FINIS.