ANNO TRICESIMO SEPTIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXXII.

An Act for the better preventing the forging or counterfeiting the Names of Witneſſes to Letters of Attorney, or other Authorities or Inſtruments, for the Transfer of Stocks or Funds, which now are, or by any Act or Acts of Parliament ſhall hereafter be made, transferrable at the Bank of *England*; or for the Transfer of any Part of the Capital Stock of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* called *Bank Stock*; or for the Transfer of any Part of the Capital Stock, or any Stocks or Funds under the Management of the *South Sea* Company; or for the Transfer of any Part of the Capital Stock of the *Eaſt India* Company; or for the Receipt of Dividends upon any of ſuch Stocks or Funds. [19th *July* 1797.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS by the ſeveral Acts of Parliament creating and authorizing the Transfer and Management of the Publick Stocks, Funds, and Annuities, transferrable at the Bank of *England*, it is provided, that all Aſſignments, or Transfers thereof, ſhall be entered and regiſtered in Books to be kept by the Accountant General of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, which Entries ſhall be ſigned by the Parties making ſuch Aſſignments or Transfers, or if ſuch Parties be abſent, by their reſpective Attorney or Attornies thereunto lawfully authorized in Writing under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to be atteſted by Two or more credible Witneſſes; and the ſame Regulation is preſcribed and obſerved with reſpect to the Atteſtation of Letters of Attorney for the Transfer of any Part of the Capital Stock of the ſaid Governor and Company called *Bank Stock*: And whereas, by an Act of Parliament made and paſſed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majeſty Queen *Anne*, and by the Charter of the Company of Merchants of *Great Britain* trading to the South Seas and other Parts of *America*, and for encouraging the Fiſhery commonly called *The South Sea Company*; and by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, creating and authorizing the Transfer and Management of the Stock of the ſaid Company commonly called *South Sea Stock*, and other Stocks and Funds ariſing thereout, or transferrable at the *South Sea* Houſe, it is provided, that all Aſſignments and Transfers thereof ſhall be entered and regiſtered in Books kept by the ſaid Governor and Company, which Entries ſhall be ſigned by the Parties making ſuch Aſſignments and Tranſfers, or if ſuch Parties be abſent, by their reſpective Attorney or Attornies, thereunto lawfully authorized in Writing under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals: And whereas all Aſſignments and Transfers

of the Capital Stock of the United Company of Merchants of *England*, trading to the *East Indies*, are entered and registered in Books kept by the said United Company, and such Assignments and Transfers shall be signed by the Parties making the same; and if such Parties be absent, then by their respective Attorney or Attornies, thereunto authorized in Writing under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals: And whereas it is expedient that Provision should be made for the Prevention of all Frauds and Impositions upon the said respective Governors and Companies, and the said United Company, respecting the Transfer of, or the Receipt of Dividends upon any of the Publick Funds or Annuities, transferrable at the Bank of *England*, or of Bank Stock, or of the Capital Stock of the said *South Sea* Company, or of the said United Company, or any other Stocks or Funds arising thereout, or transferrable, or which shall hereafter be made transferrable, at the *South Sea* House or *East India* House respectively: 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 if any Person or Persons whatever shall, from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or shall willingly act or assist in the falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, the Name or Names, Hand Writing or Hands Writing, of any Person or Persons as, or purporting to be, the Witness or Witnesses attesting the Execution of any Letter of Attorney, or other Authority or Instrument, to transfer, assign, sell, or convey, any Interest, Part, or Share, of or in any Stock or Stocks, Annuity or Annuities, or other Funds, or the Dividends thereof, transferrable, or which, by any Act or Acts of Parliament, shall hereafter be made transferrable at the Bank of *England*, or of or in the Capital Stock belonging, or which hereafter shall or may belong, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* called *Bank Stock*, or to the Governor and Company of Merchants of *Great Britain* trading to the *South Seas* and other Parts of *America*, and for encouraging the Fishery as aforesaid, or under their Care or Management, or of or in the Capital Stock belonging, or which hereafter shall or may belong, to the said United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *East Indies*, commonly called *East India Stock*, or of any Letter of Attorney, or other Authority or Instrument, to receive any Dividend or Dividends, on any of the said Stocks, Annuities, or other Funds, or shall utter or publish, as true, any such Letter of Attorney, or other Authority or Instrument, containing such false, forged, or counterfeited Name or Names, Hand Writing or Hands Writing, of such attesting Witness or Witnesses as aforesaid, knowing such Name or Names, Hand Writing or Hands Writing, to be false, forged, or counterfeited, all and every Person or Persons whatever so offending, and being in due Form of Law convicted of any such Offence or Offences as aforesaid, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall be transported for Seven Years, or shall be adjudged to suffer such lesser Punishment as the Court, before whom such Offender or Offenders shall be tried, shall think fit to award.

From *Aug.* 1, 1797, Persons forging the Names of Witnesses to Instruments for the Transfer, or Receipt of Dividends, of Stocks at the Bank, or of the *South Sea* or *East India* Company's Stocks, to be guilty of Felony.

Publick Act.

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