ANNO TRICESIMO SEPTIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

C A P. LXXI.

An Act for more effectually reſtraining Intercourſe with the Crews of certain of His Majeſty's Ships now in a State of Mutiny and Rebellion, and for the more effectual Suppreſſion of ſuch Mutiny and Rebellion. [6th *June* 1797.]

WHEREAS the Crews of certain of His Majeſty's Ships, notwithſtanding the repeated Marks of His Majeſty's gracious Favour and Condeſcenſion towards them, have perſiſted, and do ſtill perſiſt, in a moſt dangerous and criminal Mutiny, and in the Commiſſion of divers Acts of the moſt heinous and treaſonable Nature, againſt the Crown and Dignity of our Sovereign Lord the King, and to the manifeſt Danger of the Safety of this Realm, engaged in War againſt a Foreign Enemy: And whereas it is neceſſary that immediate Proviſion ſhould be made for the Suppreſſion and Puniſhment of Offences of ſo high and Preamble.

dangerous a Nature; and for deterring all others from being guilty of ſimilar Crimes in future: 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 it ſhall and may be lawful for the Lord High Admiral, or Commiſſioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, or any Three or more of them, being thereto authorized by Order of His Majeſty in Council, to declare the Crew of any of His Majeſty's Ships who have been guilty of Acts of Mutiny and Rebellion, and who ſtill perſiſt therein, and alſo the Crew of any other of His Majeſty's Ships who ſhall be guilty of any of the like Offences, to be in a State of Mutiny and Rebellion, and by ſuch Declaration to warn all His Majeſty's faithful Subjects to abſtain from all Communication or Intercourſe with the Crews of the ſaid Ships; and ſuch Declaration ſhall forthwith be publiſhed in the *London Gazette*, and ſhall alſo (as ſoon as the ſame can conveniently be done) be proclaimed in His Majeſty's Dock Yards.

The Admiralty, by Order of the King in Council, may declare the Crew of any Ship to be in a State of Mutiny and Rebellion, and thereby warn all Subjects to abſtain from Intercourſe with the Crew.

Such Declaration to be publiſhed in the *Gazette*, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That, from and after the Date of ſuch Publication in *The London Gazette*, it ſhall not be lawful for any of His Majeſty's liege Subjects, or others reſiding or being within this Realm, to have any Communication or Intercourſe, whether perſonally or by Letter, Meſſage, or otherwiſe, with the Crew of any Ship ſo declared to be in a State of Mutiny and Rebellion, or with any Perſons or Perſon being Part of ſuch Crew, or with any Perſon who ſhall remain on Board the ſaid Ship, after the Day on which ſuch Declaration ſhall have been ſo publiſhed in *The London Gazette* as aforeſaid, or in any Manner to ſupply, aid, comfort, or aſſiſt the ſaid Crew, or any Perſons or Perſon being Part thereof, or any Perſon ſo remaining on Board the ſaid Ship.

After ſuch Publication, no Perſon to communicate with the Crew, or aſſiſt them.

III. And be it enacted, That any Perſon who, after the Date of ſuch Publication as aforeſaid, ſhall wilfully and adviſedly have any ſuch Communication or Intercourſe with ſuch Crew, or with any Perſons or Perſon being Part thereof, or with any Perſon ſo remaining on Board any ſuch Ship as aforeſaid, or in any Manner ſupply, aid, comfort, or aſſiſt ſuch Crew, or any Perſons or Perſon being Part thereof, or any Perſons or Perſon ſo remaining on Board the ſaid Ship, ſhall, on Conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of Felony, and ſhall ſuffer Death, as in Caſes of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Perſons communicating with ſuch Crew, or aſſiſting them, to ſuffer Death.

IV. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the Date of ſuch Publication as aforeſaid, all Wages and other Allowances payable to the ſaid Crew, or any of them, ſhall ceaſe and determine, and be no longer payable, and they ſhall reſpectively from thenceforth forfeit and loſe all Wages and other Allowances, and all Shares of Prizes then due to them reſpectively, and all Benefits or Advantages to which they might otherwiſe be entitled from *Greenwich* Hoſpital or the Cheſt at *Chatham*, and all other Benefits and Advantages whatſoever, to which they might be otherwiſe entitled in conſequence of their having ſerved as Seamen or Marines on Board any of His Majeſty's Ships; and that all Perſons voluntarily remaining on Board any of the ſaid Ships, after having had Knowledge of ſuch Declaration, ſhall be adjudged guilty of Piracy and Felony, and

From ſuch Publication, the Crew ſhall forfeit all Wages, Allowances, Prize Money, &c.;

and all Perſons remaining on Board after Knowledge of

and ſhall ſuffer ſuch Pains of Death and Loſs of Lands, Goods, and Chattels, as any Pirates or Felons by virtue of an Act, made in the Eleventh Year of King *William* the Third, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Suppreſſion of Piracy*, or any other Act, ought to ſuffer. ſuch Declaration, to be adjudged guilty of Piracy and Felony.

V. Provided always, That nothing in this Act ſhall be conſtrued to extend to ſuch Communication or Intercourſe as may be carried on with the ſaid Crews, or any Perſons remaining on Board the ſaid Ships as aforeſaid, by the Lord High Admiral, or the Commiſſioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, or any Three or more of them, or by their Order or Authority, or by the Order or Authority of ſuch Perſons or Perſon, as may be authorized by them to grant Permiſſion or to give Directions in that Behalf. Act not to extend to Communications with the Admiralty.

VI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Lord High Admiral, or Commiſſioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, or any Three or more of them, in ſuch Manner as His Majeſty ſhall authorize and require, to accept the Submiſſion of the Crew of any Ship which ſhall have been ſo declared to be in a State of Mutiny and Rebellion, or of any Perſon or Perſons, Part of ſuch Crew, or of any Perſon or Perſons on Board of any of ſuch Ships, or to declare any ſuch Perſon or Perſons to have returned to their Duty, and thereupon to declare the Perſons or Perſon whoſe Submiſſion ſhall be ſo accepted, or who ſhall be ſo declared to have returned to their Duty, to be exempted and relieved from all or any of the Penalties and Forfeitures in this Act contained, in ſuch Manner, and under ſuch Terms and Reſtrictions as His Majeſty ſhall think fit; and from and after ſuch Declaration, nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend to prevent any ſuch Intercourſe or Communication as aforeſaid, with any Perſons or Perſon to whom ſuch Declaration ſhall apply. The Admiralty, as authorized by His Majeſty, may accept the Submiſſion of the Crew, &c.

VII. Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Offence committed againſt this Act, whether committed on the High Seas or within that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, ſhall and may be proſecuted and tried before any Court of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery for any County in that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, in ſuch Manner and Form as if the ſaid Offence had been therein committed. Where Offences may be proſecuted.

VIII. Provided always, and it is hereby declared and enacted, That any Perſon who ſhall be tried and acquitted, or convicted of any Offence againſt this Act, ſhall not be liable to be indicted, proſecuted, or tried again for the ſame Offence or Fact, as High Treaſon, or Miſpriſion of High Treaſon; and that nothing in this Act contained ſhall be conſtrued to extend, to prevent any Perſons guilty of any Offence againſt this Act, and who ſhall not be tried for the ſame as an Offence againſt this Act, from being tried for the ſame as High Treaſon, or Miſpriſion of High Treaſon, in ſuch Manner as if this Act had not been made. Perſons tried for Offences againſt this Act, not to be tried again for the ſame, as High Treaſon or Miſpriſion of High Treaſon, &c.

IX. And be it enacted, That this Act ſhall be in Force until the Expiration of One Month after the Commencement of the next Seſſion of Parliament, and no longer. Continuance of Act.

Act may be altered during the preſent Seſſion.

X. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful to amend or alter this Act, or any Part thereof, during the preſent Seſſion of Parliament.

FINIS.