ANNO TRICESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. LIV.

An Act to indemnify all Persons who may have incurred Penalties or Forfeitures under an Act, passed in the Second Year of the Reign of King *James* the First, intituled, *An Act concerning Tanners, Curriers, Shoemakers, and other Artificers occupying the Cutting of Leather*; and to repeal Parts of the said Act, relating to the Buying of Hides. [13th *June* 1799.]

Preamble. 2 *Jac.* I. Cap. 22, recited.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the Second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *James* the First, intituled, *An Act concerning Tanners, Curriers, Shoemakers, and other Artificers occupying the Cutting of Leather*, it is amongst other Things enacted, That no Person or Persons shall bargain, buy, make any Contract for, or bespeak, any Rough Hide, or Calve Skin in the Hair, but only such Person or Persons as by virtue of the said Act may lawfully use the Craft or Mystery of tanning of Leather, and shall tan the same, or such Person or Persons which shall taw the same; and that no Tanner or other Person or Persons shall forestall any Hides coming to any Fair or Market, nor shall buy any Hide any other where than in open Fair or Market, unless it be of such Person or Persons as shall kill the said Beast, whereof the said Hide shall be for the Provision of his or their own House or Houses, upon Pain of the Forfeiture therein mentioned:

And whereas notwithſtanding the ſaid Act, it has been uſual and cuſtomary for Tanners to buy raw Hides of Perſons who kill Beaſts, whereof ſuch Hides are taken, although ſuch Beaſts have not been killed for the Proviſion of their own Houſe or Houſes, in conſequence of which Actions have been lately brought, and other Actions may be brought againſt Tanners and others who have ſo bought raw Hides, on the Ground that ſuch Buying is contrary to the Prohibition of the ſaid Act: And whereas the Practice of ſo buying Hides was not introduced by the Perſons againſt whom Actions have been brought, but has been prevailing many Years, and particularly the Hides of Beaſts bought and killed for the Publick Service have uſually been ſold to Tanners, and not in Publick Markets, and have been again ſold by the Purchaſers without tanning or tawing the ſame; and it will be injurious to the Publick Service if ſuch Hides ſhall not continue to be ſo ſold: And whereas the Actions ſo brought might be attended with the Ruin of the Defendants: In order therefore to prevent ſuch Litigation, Expence, and Miſchief, may it 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 all and every Perſon or Perſons againſt whom any Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information hath been or ſhall be brought for any Penalty or Penalties incurred before the paſſing of this Act, by reaſon of any Breach of the ſaid Prohibition contained in the aforeſaid Act, ſhall be, and is and are hereby indemnified, freed, and diſcharged from the ſame; any Thing in the before-mentioned Act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Perſons indemnified againſt Actions brought for Penalties incurred under recited Act, for buying Hides otherwiſe than in open Market, &c.

II. Provided always, That all Coſts incurred in proſecuting any ſuch Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information, ſhall be borne and diſcharged by the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information; and it ſhall be lawful for the Defendant or Defendants, in any Action or Actions brought or to be brought as aforeſaid, to apply to the Court in which ſuch Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information, ſhall be brought to ſtay all Proceedings therein on Payment of ſuch Coſts.

Coſts incurred in proſecuting ſuch Actions to be diſcharged by the Defendants, who may thereupon ſtay Proceedings.

III. Provided alſo, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, ſhall not extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to indemnify any Perſon againſt whom final Judgement ſhall have been given before the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-nine, in any ſuch Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information; and that the Defendant, in any ſuch Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information, which has been or ſhall be brought, may plead the general Iſſue, and give this Act, and the ſpecial Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon; and in caſe any Plea has already been pleaded, or any Demurrer filed, may move the Court to ſtay all Proceedings, and the Court ſhall make ſuch Order as may be neceſſary for effectuating the Purpoſes of this Act.

Act not to indemnify Perſons againſt whom final Judgement ſhall have been given before *April* 5, 1799, &c.

IV. And be it further enacted, That notwithſtanding any Thing in the ſaid Act contained, it ſhall be lawful for all Perſons to bargain, buy, contract for, or beſpeak, any rough Hide or Calf Skin in the Hair, of Beaſts ſlaughtered for the Service of His Majeſty's Navy, although ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall not afterwards tan or taw the ſame; and that ſo much of the ſaid Act as prohibits the bargaining, buying, contracting for,

So much of the recited Act as prohibits the buying Hides of Beaſts ſlaughtered for the Service of the

for, or beſpeaking any rough Hides, or Calf Skin in the Hair, of Beaſts ſlaughtered for the Service of His Majeſty's Navy, and not afterwards tanning or tawing the ſame, or the buying of raw Hides any otherwiſe than in open Fair or Market, or impoſes any Penalty or Forfeiture in reſpect thereof, ſhall be and the ſame is hereby repealed.

Navy, and not afterwards tanning or tawing them, or the buying of Raw Hides otherwiſe than in open Market, repealed.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1799.