Anno quarto

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXIX.

An Act for the Encouragement of the Whale Fiſhery in the Gulph and River of *Saint Lawrence*, and on the Coaſts of His Majeſty's Colonies in *America*.

WHEREAS a conſiderable Whale Fiſhery has been diſcovered in the Gulph and River of Saint Lawrence, and has been carried on with Succeſs, but is ſtill capable of Improvement: And whereas it would contribute greatly to the Encouragement of the ſaid Fiſhery, if the Duty now payable on the Importation of Whale Fins, taken from Whales caught in the ſaid Gulph and River of Saint Lawrence, or in any Seas on the Coaſts of any of His Majeſty's Colonies in America, were, for a competent Time, leſſened and reduced; We Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament aſſembled, deſirous to improve the Advantages that have accrued to Your Majeſty's Subjects from the Preamble.

Cessions made by the late Peace, most humbly beseech 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 it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons, from and after the passing of this Act, at any Time before the Twenty fifth Day of December, One thousand seven hundred and seventy, and from thence to the End of the then next Session of Parliament, to import in Ships belonging to his Majesty's Subjects (whereof the Captain or Master, and Three Fourth Parts of the Mariners, are his Majesty's Subjects) Whale Fins taken from Whales caught by any of his Majesty's Subjects in the Gulph or River of Saint Lawrence, or in any Seas on the Coasts of any of his Majesty's Colonies in America, without paying any Custom, Subsidy, or Duty, for the same, other than and except the Rate or Duty commonly called The Old Subsidy, granted by an Act made in the Twenty fifth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, An Act for the Encouragement of the *Greenland* and *Eastland* Trades, and for the better securing the Plantation Trade, for and during the said Term; any Law or Statute to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

From the passing this Act, to 25 *Dec.* 1770, *&c.*

Whale Fins, taken from Whales caught by *British* Subjects in the Gulph or River of *Saint Lawrence*, or on the Coasts of the *British* Colonies, may be imported in *British* Ships, duly navigated,

paying no other Duty, than the *Old Subsidy* granted by Act 25 *Car.* II;

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to allow the Importation of Whale Fins without paying any Custom, Subsidy, or Duty, other than and except the said Rate or Duty commonly called The Old Subsidy, unless the Captain, Master, or other Commanding Officer of the Ship or Vessel, or the Person importing the same, shall first make Oath before One of the Principal Officers of the Customs in the Port or Ports of Importation (who is and are hereby authorized and required to administer such Oath) that all the Whale Fins imported in such Ship or Vessel were, to the best of his Knowlege and Belief, really and bona fide the Fins of Whales caught and taken in the Gulph or River of Saint Lawrence, or in the Seas on the Coasts of some of his Majesty's Colonies in America, by the Crew of such Ships and Vessels only, whereof the Owner or Owners, the Captain or Master, and Three Fourth Parts of the Mariners, were his Majesty's Subjects.

the Master first making Oath, at the Port of Importation, of the Truth of the Premisses.

FINIS.