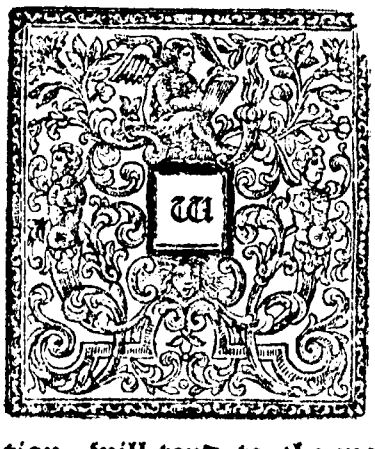
Anno quarto

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*.



WHEREAS the Poor in the Hundred of Blything, in the County of Suffolk, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by their respective Parishes: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor in the said Hundred, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Relief and Assistance of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Diseases, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour; to the better Employment of the able and industrious; to the Correction and Punishment of the profligate and idle; and to the Education of poor Children in Religion and Industry; and thereby the Poor, instead of being wholly supported by the Publick, may contribute to the Support, Assistance, and Relief mutually of each other, and be of some Advantage to the Community, to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen; May it therefore please Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice Preamble.

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, all and every Person and Persons, who shall then be, and from time to time shall thereafter become seised, in his, her, or their own Right, of Lands or Tenements rated to the Poor's Rates in any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, within the said Hundred of Blything, at the Value of Thirty Pounds per Annum; and also all Rectors and Vicars for the time being, of the several Rectories and Vicarages within the said Hundred; and also all and every Person or Persons, who then, and from time to time thereafter, shall be rated to the Poor's Rates, in One or more Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, within the said Hundred, for Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Tithes, occupied and enjoyed by him, her, or them, at the Value of Sixty Pounds per Annum; shall be, and are hereby declared to be, incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*; and shall for ever, in Name and Fact, be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have a perpetual Succession, and a Common Seal, and shall be, and be called The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of *Blything*, in the County of *Suffolk*; and shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued by that Name, in all Courts and Places of Judicature within that Part of Great Britain called England; and by that Name shall and may purchase, take, and receive, any Goods and Chattles whatsoever, to or for the Use of the said Corporation.

Guardians of the Poor

to be a Corporation.

Proviso. Provided always, That such Corporation shall not be capable of taking or holding any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, except as are herein after particularly mentioned or expressed.

Women to act by Proxy. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Women who shall be seised of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, or be rated to the Poor's Rates respectively as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby authorized to act as Guardians, for all the Purposes of this Act, by Proxy appointed under their Hands; and the Persons appointing such Proxies may from time to time revoke such Appointments; and such Proxies shall be granted to such Persons as shall be Guardians; but no more than One such Proxy shall be granted to, or received by, any One Guardian whatsoever.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all poor Persons, or Persons incapable of providing for themselves, within the said Hundred of Blything, shall continue under the Government and Management of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of their several Parishes, Hamlets and Places respectively, in the same Manner they now are, until the House or Houses herein after-mentioned shall be built and fitted up for their Reception; and that from and after the General Meeting of the Guardians, which the Directors of the Poor in the said Hundred are herein afterwards required to call within Three Months next after the said House or Houses shall be built and fitted up for the Reception of the Poor, the said poor Persons, and Persons incapable of providing for themselves, shall be under the Government and Management of the said Guardians of the Poor; and that all poor Children which at any Time shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government, the Males till they arrive at the Age of Eighteen Years, and the Females till they shall arrive at the Age of Sixteen Years respectively; and that after such Boys shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, and such Girls the Age of Sixteen Years respectively, they shall be discharged from the Rule and Government of the said Guardians, and be at their own Disposal.

Poor how to be governed till the House is built;

and then to be managed by the Guardians till a certain Age,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Guardians, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, at any Time before such Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for the Term of Seven Years, or to bind any such Male Child or Children Apprentices in the Sea Service, to any Captain, Master, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel, in like Manner as Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, with the Assent of the Justices of the Peace, are by the Laws now in being impowered to do; and the Persons to whom such Children shall be bound Apprentices, shall be obliged to receive and provide for such Apprentices, in like Manner as they are now obliged by the Laws in being to provide for Apprentices; and no Apprentice, so bound as aforesaid, shall (except with the Consent of the Directors and acting Guardians present at the weekly Meetings herein after appointed to be had) be assigned or turned over to any other Person, and then only to One of the same Trade, Business, or Occupation; and that the Persons to whom they shall

or put out Apprentices;

be so assigned or turned over, shall be obliged to receive and provide for them, in the same Manner, and under the same Penalties and Forfeitures, as the Persons to whom they were First bound as aforesaid, were obliged to receive and provide for them.

or to the Governor or Steward for the time being;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Guardians, by and with the Consent of any Two Justices of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk, at any Time before such Children shall arrive at such respective Ages as aforesaid, to bind any such Children to be Apprentices for the Term of Seven Years, to the Governor or Steward herein after directed to be appointed by virtue of this Act for the time being; and on the Death, Resignation, or Removal, of such Governor or Steward, such Apprentices, so bound to the Governor or Steward, shall belong and appertain to the succeeding Governor or Steward, without any formal Assignment being made to him of such Apprentices; and so from time to time to the Governor or Steward for the time being, until the Expiration of the said Term of Seven Years, for which such Children shall have been respectively bound; and such Children shall respectively serve the said Governor or Steward for the time being as Apprentices until the End of the said Term; and shall during the said Term be considered as Apprentices to the said Governor or Steward for the time being, to all Intents and Purposes, in the same Manner as if they had been originally bound to every such Governor or Steward respectively; and such Children, so to be bound Apprentices to the said Governor or Steward, shall be provided for and maintained by the said Guardians, during such their respective Apprenticeships, in the same Manner as other poor Children are to be provided for and maintained by virtue of this Act; and all Profits, Benefit, and Advantages arising from such Apprentices, so bound to the said Governor or Steward, shall be accounted for to the said Guardians, and shall be had, received, and taken by them, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

or let out;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians may, on Application made by any Farmer or other Person, wanting a Number of such Children, or other poor Persons, in Harvest, Hop-gathering, or other Work suited to the Strength and Ability of such Children or other poor Persons, let out such Number of the said Children or other poor Persons as shall be so required, on a Contract for their Labour

and

and Maintenance, at such Wages as shall be agreed for between the said Guardians and the Person or Persons hiring such Children or other poor Persons; which Wages shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians, and shall be by him accounted for, and be applied to the Purposes of this Act.

Provided always, That if the Parents, Kindred, or Friends of Children so maintained by the said Guardians, shall, either when the said Children shall attain their said respective Ages of Eighteen and Sixteen Years, or at any Time before, be desirous or willing to receive, maintain, and employ such Children, and such Children shall be willing to be so received, maintained, and employed, it shall be lawful for the said Guardians, to dismiss such Children. or delivered to Parents, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians, to borrow any Sum or Sums of Money, for the Purposes of this Act, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Fifteen thousand Pounds at Interest, payable Half-yearly, and to charge all or any Part of the Poor's Rates to be collected within the said Hundred of Blything, as a Security for the Repayment of the Principal and Interest of the Monies so to be borrowed; and that such Sum and Sums of Money so to be borrowed as aforesaid, shall be divided into Numbers or Shares of One hundred Pounds each; and that a Receipt or Receipts under their common Seal, and signed by Five of the Directors, to be chosen as herein after directed, shall be a sufficient Security for each respective Number or Share of One hundred Pounds, with Interest for the same; and that such Receipts shall, from time to time, be transferrable by Indorsement thereon, signed by the Person or Persons intitled thereto, or his, her, or their Attorney or Attornies, for that Purpose lawfully constituted, and attested by the Clerk to the said Guardians for the time being. Power to borrow Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians shall meet at the Angel Inn in Halesworth, on Monday the Fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and fifty four, and proceed to the Execution of this Act; and, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock in the same Day, by Majority of Voices, appoint some One Guardian then present to be President or Chairman of such Meeting; and such Person so elected President or Chairman shall cause the rest of the said Guardians there assembled to proceed, by way of Ballot, to the Choice First Meeting of Guardians. Choice of Directors, &c.

of

of Twenty four the most able and discreet of the Guardians; which Twenty four Persons so chosen shall be called Directors of the Poor within the Hundred of *Blything* aforesaid; and the said Guardians shall, by Ballot, elect and choose One other proper and substantial Person to be Treasurer, and One other sufficient Person to be Clerk to the said Guardians, who shall from time to time enter all their Proceedings in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, and likewise such other Officers as the said Guardians shall find necessary for the Execution of this Act.

Rewards to be made to Officers.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians shall, and they are hereby required, to allow such Rewards to such Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officers, out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act, and also to take such Security from such Treasurer or Treasurers, or other Persons, for the due Execution of his or their Office or Offices, as to the said Guardians shall seem reasonable.

Removal of Officers.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Treasurer, Clerk, or any other Officer, shall continue in their Offices only during the Pleasure of the said Corporation; and that it shall be lawful for the said Directors, and the acting Guardians, to be chosen in Manner herein after directed, who shall be present at any General Quarterly Meeting herein after appointed, by Ballot, to displace them, or any of them; and, upon their Removal, Death, or Resignation, to choose others in his or their Stead.

Directors to purchase Land;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors of the Poor, to be chosen in Manner aforesaid, shall, and they are hereby required and impowered, as soon as conveniently may be, to enter into Contracts for the absolute Purchase, in Fee-simple, of any Quantity of Land, for the Use of the said Guardians and their Successors, not exceeding Fifty Acres, with or without Buildings thereon, lying as near as may be to the Center of the said Hundred, which they may think most fit and convenient for the Situation of a House or Houses for Reception and Employment of the Poor, and other Buildings herein after-mentioned, and for other the Purposes of this Act; so that the Price thereof do not exceed Twenty seven Years Purchase of the true annual Value of the Land; and to pay for such Lands or Buildings out of the Money to be borrowed or otherwise raised by virtue of this Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors shall and may, and they are hereby required, within Two Years next after the entering into Contracts for the Purchase of Land as aforesaid, to build and erect, in a plain and durable Manner, on the Land so purchased as aforesaid, the several Buildings following; that is to say, A convenient Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as an Hospital for the Reception of such aged, sick, or infirm Persons, and young Children, as are not able to work; One other Building, or Part of a Building, to serve for the Reception, Maintenance, or Employment of such poor Persons as are able to work; and One other separate Building, or Part of a Building, to serve as a House or Houses of Correction, for the punishing and keeping to hard Labour such idle and disorderly Persons who, being able, shall refuse to work, or otherwise misbehave themselves; and such other Buildings as the said Directors shall find necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act; which shall be called The House or Houses for the Poor within the Hundred of *Blything*; and the said Directors shall keep the Buildings so erected as aforesaid, in good Repair, and from time to time alter or enlarge the same, in such Manner as shall be thought convenient; and that the Expence of purchasing such Lands, and of erecting or preparing such Houses or Buildings, and keeping the same in Repair, shall be defrayed out of the Money arising by virtue of this Act. and erect a House or Houses for the Reception of the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors, or any Seven or more of them, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a Committee, to direct and superintend the said Buildings until the same shall be finished: And the said Committee shall enter all their Proceedings in a Book or Books for that Purpose; and shall and may, by Order under their Hands, or the Hands of any Three or more of them, at a publick Meeting assembled, order any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid by the Treasurer or Treasurers out of the Money remaining in his or their Hands for the Purposes of this Act; and such Order or Orders shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be, a Discharge to the Treasurer or Treasurers for any Money by him or them respectively paid. Directors to superintend the Buildings; issue Money,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors of the Poor within the said District shall and may, within Three Months next after such Workhouse shall be finished, provide and furnish and provide Furniture and Materials.

the same with all necessary Furniture, Houshold Goods, and Utensils; and shall also provide a convenient Stock of Flax, Hemp, Wool, Cotton, Thread, Iron, Stone, Wood, Leather, or other Materials, for the Employment of the Poor received into such House or Houses; and for that Purpose only may set up, use, and occupy any Trade, Mystery, or Occupation, whatsoever, in such House or Houses.

When Buildings finished, a General Meeting to be called.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as the said Buildings shall be completed and finished, and properly fitted up for the Reception of the said poor Persons as aforesaid, that then the said Directors shall call a General Meeting of all the Guardians of the Poor in the said Hundred of Blything; at which Meeting the said Guardians, in case any of the said Directors shall be dead, or shall be removed out of the County of Suffolk, or shall refuse to act in the said Office, shall elect One or more fit Person or Persons to the said Office of Director, in the Room or Stead of such Person or Persons so dying, removing, or refusing to act, so as to complete the said Directors to the Number of Twenty four; which Person or Persons so to be elected to the said Office shall be chosen by way of Ballot as aforesaid: And the said Guardians, at such Meeting assembled, shall also, by way of Ballot, elect Thirty six Guardians, who, together with the said Twenty four Directors, shall be the Directors and acting Guardians of the said Poor, and for putting in Execution all the Powers and Authorities of this Act within the said Hundred, for the Remainder of the Year in which they shall be so appointed, until the Friday in Easter Week then next following.

Directors and acting Guardians to make Orders:

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall have, and they are hereby declared to have, full Power and Authority to make from time to time such By-laws, Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, as well for the better governing the said Corporation, as for the better governing, employing, and supporting, the said poor Persons in the said Hundred, and for the carrying on any Trade that shall be set on Foot for the Employment of the said Poor, and for other the Ends and Purposes of this Act; and from time to time afterwards to repeal, alter, or amend, such By-laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem meet; so that such By-laws,

Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, are not repugnant to the Laws of the Land.

Provided always, That not less than Nine of the said Directors and acting Guardians together (whereof Three at the least to be Directors) shall be present at every Meeting for such Purpose, and the major Part of them then present (of which major Part Three at the least shall be Directors) shall give their Assent to such By-laws, Rules, Orders, or Constitutions. Nine to be present.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Four General Quarterly Meetings shall be held by the said Directors and acting Guardians in each Year, and One of such Meetings shall be held annually on Friday in Easter Week, the first of which Meetings shall be held at Halesworth aforesaid, and the subsequent Meetings at such Place as the Directors and acting Guardians present at the preceding General Quarterly Meeting, from time to time shall direct and appoint; and at the Times herein after appointed, and at all such Meetings on the Friday in Easter Week, the then Directors and acting Guardians shall by Ballot fill up any Vacancies that may have happened in the Twenty four Directors, by Death, Removal, or Refusal of acting; and shall by Ballot proceed to choose Thirty six Guardians, Twelve of which at least shall not have been nominated Guardians the preceding Year, to be acting Guardians together with the said Twenty four Directors for the following Year; that is to say, until the Friday in Easter Week which shall be in the ensuing Year; and at the said General Meeting in Easter Week the Directors and acting Guardians then present shall examine and audit the Treasurer's Accounts, and then shall by Ballot re-elect the same Person or any other Person to be Treasurer for the following Year, and so from Year to Year on every succeeding Friday in Easter Week for ever. Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at any other of the General Quarterly Meetings, herein after directed to be held, the Directors and acting Guardians present at such Meeting shall and may fill up any Vacancies that may have happened within the Year in the Twenty four Directors and Thirty six acting Guardians, by Death or otherwise, by way of Ballot as aforesaid. Vacancies to be filled up at any Quarter Meeting.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians shall, at the said Meeting to be held on the Friday in Easter Week, appoint Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians together Committees for each Quarter:

(whereof

(whereof Six at the least to be Directors) for each Quarter of the succeeding Year, to inspect, direct, manage, and provide for, the said poor People in such respective House or Houses; and for that Purpose, the said Directors and acting Guardians, or any Three or more of them (whereof One to be a Director) shall, in the respective Quarters of the Year for which they shall be so appointed as aforesaid, meet at the said House or Houses so to be built for the Reception of the Poor aforesaid every Monday Morning, or oftener if it shall be necessary, together with the Clerk for the time being; and such of them as shall be there present shall and may give such Directions as they shall think proper for the Employment, Maintenance, and Relief of the Poor in such House or Houses, and for carrying into Execution such Rules, Orders, and Constitutions, and such Powers and Authorities, as shall be from time to time made and granted by the said Directors and acting Guardians.

Committees for each Month.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians, so to be from time to time appointed as aforesaid for each and every Quarter in the Year, may and they are hereby authorized, by Agreement amongst themselves, to divide themselves into Committees of Five to act for each Month in each Quarter; but so as not to preclude any other Director or acting Guardian from being present or voting at any such Weekly or other Meeting as aforesaid; and if there shall not be present at any Meeting so appointed to be held, Three Directors and acting Guardians together (One whereof shall be a Director) every Director, who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and every Guardian who, by any such Agreement as aforesaid, ought to have attended, and shall be absent, shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Shillings, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeiture shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor.

If Three not present,

Penalty on Non-attendance.

Times of holding Quarterly Meetings.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Three other General Quarterly Meetings shall be held on the Friday next after the Feast of Saint John

the

the Baptist; on the Friday next after the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel; and on the Friday next after the Feast of The Nativity of our Lord, in every Year.

Accounts to be settled, and laid before the Quarter Sessions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, the said Fifteen Directors and acting Guardians for the preceding Quarter respectively shall settle their Accounts, and from time to time shall cause the same to be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the next Quarter Sessions to be held for the said County of Suffolk at Beccles; and the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, shall lay the same before the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions, to be by the said Justices examined, audited, and finally passed; for which a Fee of Ten Shillings and Six Pence, and no more, shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, and no other Fee or Reward shall be paid to, or be had, received, or taken, by the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, or any other Person or Persons, under any Pretext whatsoever.

Assessments to be made.

And, for the better Security of such Sums of Money as shall be borrowed by virtue of this Act, and for providing for the Poor to be employed or relieved in such House or Houses, and for defraying the other Expences of this Act, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said Four General Quarterly Meetings, the said Directors and acting Guardians shall and may, and they are hereby impowered to assess such Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding the respective Rates or Sums herein after mentioned, upon the several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places within the said Hundred, as they the said Directors and acting Guardians shall judge necessary for paying the Interest due on the said Debt, and for defraying the Expences of the current Quarter, and for and towards paying off and discharging the said Principal Debt; and such Assessments being delivered to the Clerk of the Peace, or his Deputy, at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held at Beccles aforesaid, and being allowed by the Justices of the Peace at such Sessions assembled (for which Delivery and Allowance no Fee or Reward whatsoever shall be had, received, or taken, by any Person or Persons whomsoever) the said Directors and acting Guardians for the time being, or any Three or more of them (whereof One to be a Director) shall be and they are hereby impowered to issue Warrants, under the Seal of the said Corporation, to the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor in all and every of the several

Parishes, Hamlets, and Places within the said Hundred, requiring such Churchwardens or Overseers to pay at some particular Time or Place, to be specified in the said Warrant, the Sums so assessed upon the said several Parishes, Hamlets, and Places respectively, to the Treasurer of the said Guardians for the time being, whose Receipt for the same shall be a legal Discharge to such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor:

Sums to be raised,

And for raising the Sums so assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, such respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall from time to time, and they are hereby required, with as much Equality and Indifference as is possible, to raise by Taxation of every Inhabitant, Parson, Vicar, and others, and of every Occupier of Lands, Houses, Tythes Impropriate, Propriations of Tythes, Coal Mines, or saleable Underwoods, in their respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, so much Money as shall be assessed upon such respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, by the said Directors and acting Guardians, in such and the like Manner as Money for the Relief of the Poor is by the Laws now in being to be raised; with such and the like Remedy to Persons aggrieved, by way of Appeal, as is given concerning Rates or Assessments made for the Relief of the Poor by the Laws now in being; for all which Sums of Money so assessed and received by the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, in case of any Deficiency, the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, wherein such Sums of Money shall be so assessed or received, shall be answerable, and shall be compellable to pay the same upon a Re-assessment, which, in that Case, is hereby directed to be made by the Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting; and such Taxes and Assessments, and also such Re-assessments, shall be levied and recovered in such and the like Manner as Money assessed for the Relief of the Poor is, by the Laws now in being, to be levied and recovered.

not to exceed One Year's Rate on a Medium, from *Easter* 1756, to *Easter* 1763.

Provided always, That the Sums to be assessed by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at their General Quarterly Meetings, upon any One of the said Parishes, Hamlets, and Places, shall not exceed, in any One Year, the Sum which shall have been rated, assessed, or expended, for the Relief of the Poor in such respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, in One Year, upon a Medium, to be drawn from Easter Day, One thou-

sand seven hundred and fifty six, to Easter Day, One thousand seven hundred and sixty three.

Monies for other Purposes may be still assessed by Churchwardens, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall not extend to hinder or prevent the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any of the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places within the said Hundred, from assessing and raising any Sum or Sums of Money, to make any Payment or Payments which is or are directed and required by any Law in being to be made out of the Poor's Rates; but such Sum and Sums shall and may be assessed and raised for such Purposes, over and above the Sums assessed and required to be raised by the said Directors and acting Guardians, and shall be accounted for in such Manner as if this Act had not been made.

Parts of Parishes lying out of the Hundred to be assessed.

Provided always, That all such Houses, Lands, and Tythes, as are now and usually have been charged and rated to the Poor's Rates of any of the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, within the said Hundred, shall continue to be so charged and rated, although such Houses or Lands be not strictly within the said Hundred of Blything; and that all such Houses and Lands, as have been so usually charged and rated to the Poor as aforesaid, shall be and be deemed as Parcel and Part of the said Hundred of Blything, for all the Purposes of this Act; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Churchwardens, &c. to attend at First Meeting,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or One of them, for each respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundred, shall, and they are hereby required, upon Notice in Writing, signed by One of the said Guardians, being delivered to them respectively, or left at their respective Places of Abode, at least Two Days before the First Meeting of the said Guardians, to attend the said First Meeting with the Books in which the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor for Seven Years, from Easter Day, One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, to Easter Day, One thousand seven hundred and sixty three, have been entered, and where no such Books shall be kept, with the original Rates for the Maintenance of the Poor, together with an Account of all such other Sums of Money which shall have been received by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Seven Years, for or upon Account of the Relief of the Poor of such Parish, Hamlet, or Place; and shall, upon his, her, or their respective Oaths, deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts,

and deliver Books, Rates, and Accounts.

and

and leave the same in the Custody of the President or Chairman who shall be chosen at such Meeting (which Oaths such President or Chairman, or any of the Guardians then present, is and are hereby impowered to administer); and such President or Chairman shall deliver such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the Directors who shall be then also elected, to the End that they may examine the same, and fix and ascertain the Proportions afterwards to be observed in assessing the said respective Parishes, Hamlets, and Places; and such Directors shall return such Books, Rates, and Accounts, to the said Churchwardens and Overseers, whenever they or any of them respectively shall demand the same, after the Expiration of Forty Days from the Delivery thereof to such President or Chairman: And in case all or any of such Accounts or original Rates for any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, shall not be produced at such First Meeting of the said Guardians, such Directors may notwithstanding assess such Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, at their Discretion, but as equally as they can, in like Proportion with other Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, Regard being had to the Value of such Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, and to the Number of the Poor usually maintained there.

Parishes to be assessed at Discretion, if no Account or Rates delivered.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Constables, or other Parish Officers for the time being, of all and every of the Parishes, Divisions, and Precincts, within the said Hundred, shall, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, aid and assist the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, to the best of their Power, and shall at all Times obey their Warrants and reasonable Orders relative to the Execution of this Act: And in case any Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor, or Constable or other Officer, shall refuse or neglect to raise and levy the Sums so assessed upon his respective Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or to pay at the Time and Place appointed the Money so collected and levied, or to obey any such Warrants or Orders, every such Churchwarden, Overseer, Constable, or Officer, so neglecting or refusing, shall be summoned, by Writing under the Hands of any Three Directors or acting Guardians, to appear at the next General Quarterly Meeting of the said Directors and acting Guardians to be holden as aforesaid; and if such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Officer, so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such General

Churchwardens to assist, and obey the Orders of Guardians.

Penalty on Neglect.

neral Quarterly Meeting, or, if appearing, he, or any of them, shall not sufficiently excuse or justify him or themselves, but shall, in the Judgement of the major Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at such General Quarterly Meeting, be adjudged guilty of disobeying such Warrant or Warrants, Order or Orders; that then, and in every such Case, all and every Person and Persons so adjudged guilty as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay, for every such Offence, any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice of the Peace for the said County of Suffolk; and such Forfeitures shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and added by him to the Common Stock, for the Use of the Poor: But if any such Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, Constable, or other Parish Officer, so offending and convicted as aforesaid, shall think himself aggrieved, that then it shall and may be lawful for such respective Officer to appeal to the next Quarter Sessions to be holden for the said County at Beccles, against the Judgement of the said General Quarterly Meeting; and the Justices of the Peace for the said County, at the said Sessions so assembled, shall and may hear and determine such Appeal, and may mitigate or set aside such Penalties, in such Manner as they shall think proper; and the Judgement of such Justices at such Quarter Sessions shall be final, without any other Appeal. Appeal.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Directors and acting Guardians shall neglect or refuse to hold any such Quarterly Meeting or Meetings, every Director and acting Guardian failing in his Duty therein, shall, for every such Default, forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Director or acting Guardian, by Order of the next General Quarter Sessions for the said County of Suffolk, to be held at Beccles, unless a sufficient Reason shall be given on the Behalf of such Director or acting Guardian, to be allowed by such Sessions: And if there shall not appear a sufficient Number of Directors and acting Guardians at any of such Quarterly Meetings, such necessary Rate shall be ordered to be made by any Two Justices of the Peace of the said County; and in case no such Order is made within One Month from the Time when such Quarterly Meeting should have been held, the same Proportion shall be rated, assessed, and raised, in such respective Parishes, Hamlets, Penalty if no Quarterly Meeting held.

and Places, by the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the ensuing Quarter, as was raised in the preceding Quarter; and shall be paid to the said Treasurer in such Manner as is herein before mentioned with respect to the Taxing, Assessing, Collecting, Recovering, and Paying, of the Sums assessed by the said Guardians.

Guardians to grant Certificates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That after the Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians at the Time appointed by this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians of the Poor, at any of their General Quarterly Meetings assembled as aforesaid, to grant Certificates under the Common Seal of the said Corporation to any Person whose legal Settlement shall be in any Parish or Place within the said Hundred of Blything, and who shall be willing to remove, or shall have removed out of the said Hundred; which respective Certificates under the Common Seal of the said Guardians, and attested by their Clerk for the time being, and signed by Two Justices of the Peace, as Certificates are now by Law directed to be, shall be good and valid to all Intents and Purposes; and no other Certificates whatsoever to be granted within the said Hundred shall be valid or of any Effect; any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certificates to be delivered to the Clerk.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That as soon as the said Poor are under the Government of the said Guardians as aforesaid, all Certificates which shall have been delivered to, and remain in the Custody of, the respective parochial Officers by Persons residing within the said Hundred, shall be delivered forthwith; and all Certificates which hereafter shall be delivered to the respective parochial Officers by Persons coming to reside, or residing, within the said Hundred, shall be, from time to time, delivered within the Space of Fourteen Days after the Receipt thereof by such Officer, to the Clerk of the said Guardians for the time being, who shall cause the same to be filed, so that Recourse may be had thereto at any future Time.

Parish to maintain the Poor, not producing Certificate.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Parishioners of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, within the said Hundred shall suffer any Person or Persons, whose legal Settlement shall not be in such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, to inhabit within their Parishes, Hamlets, or Places respectively, without producing such Certificate as aforesaid, and such Person shall become chargeable to such Parish, Hamlet, or Place, that then

then the whole Charge and Expence occasioned by such poor Person shall be defrayed by that Parish, Hamlet, or Place only, without any Assistance from the Common Stock; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bonds relating to Bastard Children to be delivered to Guardians.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Bonds already given to parochial Officers, within the said Hundred by private Persons, to indemnify the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, from any Charge that may arise from particular Bastard Children, shall be delivered likewise by such respective Officers to the said Guardians of the Poor; and it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians to sue on such Bonds in their own Name, and they shall recover the Penalties thereof, as if such Bonds had been originally made to them; and all Bonds hereafter to be given for the same, or any the like Purposes as aforesaid, shall be made to the said Guardians of the Poor; any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Guardians to sue in their own Name.

Future Bonds to be given to Guardians.

Voluntary Contributions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all voluntary Contributions, which well-disposed and charitable Persons shall think proper to make towards carrying on the good Purposes hereby intended, shall be paid to and received by the Treasurer of the said Guardians, and be applied and disposed of in such Manner for the Maintenance, Cloathing, Employment, Accommodation, and Benefit of the Poor in such House or Houses, as the Contributor and Contributors shall direct and appoint; and if no particular Direction or Appointment shall be given or made touching the Application of such Contributions, the same shall be made Part of the Common Stock, and applied for the general Purposes of this Act; and a List of the Names of such Contributors, and an Account of the Sums by them contributed, shall be affixed in the most conspicuous Part of the said House or Houses.

Appointment of Steward or Governor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Directors and acting Guardians, at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled from time to time, to appoint a Governor or Steward to oversee and inspect the Persons so maintained in such House or Houses, who shall be a Member of the Church of England, well recommended for Sobriety, Honesty, and Diligence, and who shall be capable of Reading, Writing, and casting Accounts; and also any Woman or Women who shall be maintained by the said Guardians, or any other Woman

Matrons, man or Women, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians shall seem most expedient, as a Matron or Matrons to attend and superintend the Poor in such House or Houses, under the Direction of such Governor or Steward of the Poor in such House or Houses; and such Governor or Steward shall have the Care and Management of the Poor maintained in such House or Houses, and shall from time to time make Reports of the Behaviour of such poor Persons who shall be there maintained.

and a Clergyman: And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall and may, from time to time, appoint some Clergyman of the Church of England to instruct such Persons as shall be maintained in such House or Houses in the Principles of the Christian Religion, and the Children in the Church Catechism, which the Governor or Steward shall Once at least in every Week hear such Children repeat; and the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly Meeting assembled, shall, and they are hereby impowered to make such Allowance to such Clergyman, and Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, for their Pains and Trouble therein, and may, from time to time, displace or discharge him, her, or them, or any of them, as to them the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any such Meeting assembled, shall appear reasonable, and shall and may pay such Allowances out of the Money to be raised by virtue of this Act.

Allowance to them.

Poor misbehaving, to be punished. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any poor Person maintained and relieved in the said House or Houses shall be guilty of profane Cursing or Swearing, or of any lewd, immoral, indecent, or disorderly Behaviour, or shall neglect or refuse to perform the Work or Service which he or she shall be required to do, or shall be remiss therein, such Work or Service being suited to his or their Age, Strength, and Ability; every such Offender, if a Child under the Age of Twelve Years, shall and may be punished by moderate Correction, or an Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet; or if such Offender shall be above the Age of Twelve Years, then either by Abatement of Diet, or Distinction in Dress and Diet, or by being set in the Stocks, to be provided for that Purpose, without any other Diet than Bread and Water, for any Space not exceeding Twelve Hours; such Punishment to be inflicted by Order of the major

Part

Part of the said Directors and acting Guardians present at the Weekly Meetings to be held in pursuance of this Act.

Penalty on purloining or making away with Implements of Work, or Apparel.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Apparel with which any of the Poor who shall be maintained and cloathed at the Expence of the said Corporation, shall remain, and continue, and be deemed and taken to be, the Property of the said Corporation: And in case any of the Poor maintained by the said Guardians shall purloin, sell, or pawn, any of the Materials or Implements of Work belonging to the said Corporation, and with which he, she, or they, shall be intrusted, or shall sell or pawn any of the Apparel with which they shall be cloathed at the Expence of the said Corporation, or in case any Person or Persons shall run away from such House or Houses with the Cloaths or Apparel provided by or belonging to the said Corporation, without the Leave of the major Part of the Directors and acting Guardians present at a Weekly Meeting to be held in pursuance of this Act, upon Complaint being made thereof before any Justice of the Peace for the said County, by any of the said Guardians, or by the Governor or Steward for the time being, such Justice of the Peace is hereby required to issue a Warrant for the apprehending any such Offender; and for his or her First Offence to order the Person so apprehended, being convicted thereof before such Justice of the Peace, on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered to administer) or on his or her own Confession, to be sent to the House of Correction for the said County, and to be publickly whipped by the Keeper of the said House of Correction, or some Person appointed by such Keeper, as soon as conveniently may be, and then to be discharged from the said House of Correction; and, for the Second Offence, every such Offender shall be deemed and taken to be guilty of Felony, and being legally convicted thereof, shall suffer such Punishment as Persons convicted of Petit Larceny are liable to by the Laws now in being.

Penalty on buying, &c. the Cloaths of the Poor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy, receive into pawn, or secrete, any of the Cloaths or Wearing Apparel with which any of the Poor who shall be maintained by the said Guardians shall be cloathed at the Expence of the said Guardians, or any of the Materials or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattles, provided by or belonging to the said Corpora-

tion, or shall buy or receive any of the Provisions allowed to or provided for the said Poor, every Person so offending, shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds, upon Conviction, by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County (which Oath such Justice or Justices is and are hereby impowered to administer) and the said Penalty of Five Pounds shall be levied, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, of the said Justice or Justices, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the Offender, One Moiety of the said Penalty to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Treasurer of the said Guardians for the time being, to be added by him to the Common Stock for the Use of the Poor; and if no Goods or Chattles can be found whereon to make such Distress, or that the said Penalty shall not be forthwith paid, then and in such Case such Justice or Justices shall and may, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction for the said County, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Months.

Gratuities to be allowed the Industrious, &c.

And to the end that all the poor People in the said House may be encouraged to apply themselves to such Tasks in which they shall be employed with Diligence and Humility, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That out of the Profits arising to the said Corporation from the Work which shall be done by such poor People, such Rewards shall be distributed to the Industrious and Skilful, in Proportion to the Quality and Perfection of their Work, as to the said Directors and acting Guardians assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting shall appear reasonable, so as no Part of the Money paid in such Gratuities be expended in the Purchase of unwholesome or unnecessary Liquors, the Drinking of which the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, are hereby strictly enjoined to prohibit and prevent.

and to the Governor and Matrons.

And, for inciting the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons of such House or Houses, to discharge the Duty of their Offices with Diligence and Fidelity, be it enacted, That over and above such Salaries as shall be assigned to them by the Order of the said Directors and acting Guardians, they, and each of them, shall receive, out of the Profits of Work so done by the said poor People, such Proportion thereof, as by the said Directors and acting Guardians, at any General Quarterly

Meeting assembled, shall be judged proper; so as such Gratuity shall not exceed Two Pence in the Pound of the Value of the said Profits.

Application of the Profits of the Poor's Work.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Profits of the Work so done by the said poor People in the said House or Houses, deducting thereout such Allowances and Gratuities as are herein before limited, shall be applied in Aid of the said Rates and Assessments towards the Maintenance of the Poor within the said Hundred.

Directors and acting Guardians may contract for employing the Poor.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for the said Directors and acting Guardians at a General Quarterly Meeting assembled, from time to time, to contract, if they shall think it expedient so to do, with any Person or Persons for employing all the poor People in the said House or Houses, upon such Terms and Conditions as the said Directors and acting Guardians shall think proper; such Contractor or Contractors being subject to such Rules and Regulations as are herein before prescribed for the Ease and Benefit of the said poor People; and to receive the Profits of their Labour, deducting thereout the Gratuities payable to such poor People, and the Governor or Steward, and Matron or Matrons, in Manner aforesaid, in Part or in Full of Payment and Satisfaction for the Service to be performed by virtue of such Contract, so as no such Contract shall subsist or be in Force for a longer Space than One Year.

Penalty on Officers purloining Goods.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Governor or Steward, or other Officer appointed, or Matron or other Person whatsoever, employed by the said Guardians, shall purloin, embezzle, or willingly misapply, any of the Monies, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, or Chattles, belonging to the said Corporation, every such Offender shall not only be discharged from his Office, but shall also forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, and also Treble the Value of such Money, Materials, or Implements of Work, Utensils, Goods, and Chattles, which shall be so purloined, embezzled, or misapplied, to be levied in such Manner as the Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed upon Overseers of the Poor are directed to be levied, and to be applied to the Use of the Poor in the said House or Houses; and in case sufficient Distress shall not be found, then, and in every such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any One Justice of the Peace for the said County to commit such Offender to the Common Gaol for the said County, there to remain,

main, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Space not exceeding Six Months, nor less than One Month.

Guardians may apprehend idle Persons refusing to work, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes, Hamlets, or Places within the said Hundred of Blything, and for any of them, to apprehend all Persons being in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, who not having wherewith to maintain themthemselves, live idle without Employment, and refuse to work for the usual and common Wages given to other Labourers in the like Work in the Parishes, Hamlets, or Places where they then are; and also all Persons going about from Door to Door, or placing themselves in Streets, Highways, or Passages, to beg or gather Alms in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, or Places; and also all Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons, not giving a good Account of themselves, found in any of the said Parishes, Hamlets, or Places, and to convey, or cause to be conveyed to some Justice of the Peace, for the said County the Person or Persons so apprehended; and such Person or Persons so apprehended shall be dealt with according to the Laws which shall be then in Force concerning Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly Persons.

Justices to proceed upon Complaint of Directors or acting Guardians, or Governor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases where One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace is or are impowered, by the Laws now in being, to proceed on the Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish or Parishes, Hamlet or Hamlets, Place or Places, or of any of them, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice or Justices of the Peace, and he and they are hereby required to proceed on the Complaint of any of the said Directors or acting Guardians, or of the said Governor or Steward for the time being, in such and the like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if such Complaint had been made by such Churchwardens and Overseers, or any of them.

Warrants how to be directed.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Warrants to be issued by any Justice or Justices of the Peace, in pursuance of this Act, or any ways respecting the Government and Management of the Poor within the said Hundred of Blything, shall and may be directed by such Justice or Justices of the Peace either to the said Governor or Steward for the time being, or to the Constable or Constables, or other Peace Officer or Peace Officers of the Parish, Hamlet,

Hamlet, or Place, where the same are respectively to be executed; and such Governor or Steward is hereby authorized and required to execute such Warrants so directed to him accordingly; and all Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to such Governor or Steward in the Execution of such Warrants, in the same Manner as if such Warrants had been executed by a Constable or other Peace Officer.

Lands, &c. not to be assessed higher than formerly.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all future Rates and Levies to be made for any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, wherein any Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, which shall be purchased for the Purposes of this Act, shall be situate, such Lands, Grounds, or Buildings, shall not be assessed to any such Rates and Levies at any higher Value or improved Rent than at the Time of such Purchase.

Forfeitures given to the Poor to be paid to the Treasurer.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Fines and Forfeitures arising from any Offences committed within the said Hundred, where the Whole or any Part thereof is given to the Poor of any Parish, Hamlet, or Place, or for any Offences against this Act, shall be paid to the Treasurer to the said Guardians, to the Use of the Poor of such House or Houses.

Expences of the Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted, That the Charges and Expences of procuring this Act of Parliament shall be paid out of the First Monies to be raised or borrowed by virtue of this Act.

Guardians to defray their own Expences.

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, Directors, and acting Guardians, shall, at their First and every other subsequent Meeting, defray their own Charges and Expences.

Questions how to be determined.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at the said First and all and every subsequent Meeting of the said Guardians, or any Committee of the said Guardians, or any of them, and all Meetings of the said Directors and acting Guardians, all Questions which shall not be directed by this Act to be determined by Ballot, or agreed to be so determined by such Guardians and Directors, shall be determined by the Majority of the Persons present; and, in case of an Equality of Votes, the Chairman of such respective Meeting or Committee shall have the casting Vote.

No strong Liquors to be brought into the Houses.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall convey any Spirituous or Strong Liquors into any House or Houses to be erected by virtue of this Act, such Person or Persons shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, subject to such and the like Pains and Penalties as are, by an

Act of the Twenty fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, directed to be inflicted on Persons conveying Spirituous Liquors into Prisons or Gaols.

Dunwich not comprehended in this Act.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the ancient Town and Borough of Dunwich, in the said Hundred, is, and is hereby declared not to be comprehended within the Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within Six Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards, and shall be laid and brought in the County of Suffolk, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue. General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act: And if it shall appear so to be done, or that such Action or Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiffs shall be Nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared; or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the said Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; the Defendant or Defendants Treble Costs. shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a Publick Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.