

ANNO QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XII.

An Act for making better Provision for the Maintenance of the Poor, and for diminishing the Consumption of Bread Corn, by directing the Manner of applying Parish Relief, until the Sixth Day of *November* One thousand eight hundred and one, and from thence until the End of Six Weeks after the Meeting of the then next Session of Parliament. [22d *December* 1800.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that Provision should be made for the better Administration of Parochial Relief, and for the Subsistence and Support of the Poor, during the present high Price of Provisions: And whereas the Introduction of certain Articles of Food, at reasonable Prices, will materially contribute to that End, and will lessen the Number and Extent of the Applications for Parochial Relief, whereby the present Burthens on the Persons contributing to the Parochial Rates may be decreased; 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 Preamble.

Juſtices in *England* to meet and take into Conſideration the State and Circumſtances of the Pariſhes within their reſpective Juriſdictions, and the Nature, Quality, and Prices of the Proviſions conſumed by the Poor, and the Quality and Prices of Subſtitutes for Bread, *etc.*

liament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That the reſpective Juſtices of the Peace, acting for each Diviſion and Place in *England*, ſhall, as ſoon after the paſſing of this Act as conveniently can be done, and ſo from Time to Time, meet together at Special or Petty Seſſions to be held within the Diviſions or Places for which they reſpectively act, and at ſuch Meetings ſhall take into Conſideration the State and Circumſtances of all the reſpective Pariſhes and Places within the Limits aforeſaid, and the Nature, Quality, and Prices of the different Kinds of Proviſions, uſually conſumed by the poor Perſons who have applied or are likely to apply for Parochial Relief, on Account of the preſent Scarcity and high Price of Corn, or for other Cauſes, and alſo the Quality and Prices of any other Articles of wholeſome and nutritious Food, which might be procured for the Uſe of ſuch Perſons at reaſonable Prices, and the Means of procuring the ſame, whereby the Conſumption of Bread or Bread Corn, in general Uſe within thoſe Pariſhes and Places, may be leſſened, and the State and Condition of the Poor, and particularly of ſuch as have Families of young Children, may be bettered; and the ſaid Juſtices reſpectively ſhall call before them the reſpective Overſeers of the Poor of the ſeveral Pariſhes, Townſhips, and Places, within ſuch Diviſion or Place, and alſo may call before them any other Perſons of the ſame Diviſion or Place, from whom any uſeful or neceſſary Information reſpecting the Matters aforeſaid can be obtained, or may require the Inſpection of any Books or Papers of a publick Nature; and may, when neceſſary, adjourn themſelves from Time to Time, each Adjournment being for not more than the Space of Seven Days, until the ſeveral Proviſions of this Act be fully executed.

Juſtices may order the Overſeers to provide a Stock of Proviſions to be adminiſtered as Parochial Relief, and may appoint the Kind, Quantity, and Quality of the Articles, and a Perſon to prepare, keep, ſell, or diſtribute the ſame, who ſhall be paid for his Trouble.

II. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the reſpective Juſtices of the Peace, or any Two or more of them, aſſembled as aforeſaid, and they are hereby reſpectively required (unleſs they ſee ſufficient Cauſe to the contrary) upon due Conſideration, by any Writing under the Hands and Seals of any Two or more of them, to order and direct the Overſeer or Overſeers of the Poor, of every or any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, within the reſpective Diviſions and Places for which they act, within a Time or Times to be fixed in ſuch Order, to provide a ſufficient Stock of Proviſions, towards the Support and Maintenance of the Perſons to whom Parochial Relief ſhall be given, to be adminiſtered to them, either upon Sale thereof at reaſonable Prices, or by the Diſtribution thereof in lieu of a certain Portion of the Relief to be given, according to the Directions herein-after provided; and to limit and appoint the Kind, Quantity, and Quality of each and every Article of Food to be ſo provided; which Articles may conſiſt, at the Diſcretion of the ſaid Juſtices, of any Kind or Sort of wholeſome and nutritious Food, mixed with each other, or unmixed (other than and except Bread made wholly of Wheat or Wheaten Flour, and other than and except the Kind or Kinds of Bread in common Uſe, in ordinary Times, within the reſpective Pariſhes and Places to which ſuch Orders ſhall relate); and the ſaid Juſtices ſhall alſo have Authority, whenever they ſhall think fit, to appoint a proper Perſon or Perſons to prepare, keep, and ſell or diſtribute, from Time to Time, ſuch Articles of Food as ſhall have been provided by ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, in purſuance of ſuch Order, for whoſe Labour and Care ſuch Reward ſhall be paid, or Compenſation made, as ſhall be agreed upon between

between such Person and such Overseer or Overseers, with the Consent and Approbation of the said Justices.

Justices shall prescribe Rules for the Guidance of the Overseers, and direct a Portion of the Relief to be made by a Distribution or Sale of such Articles.

III. And be it further enacted, That in every Parish, Township, or Place for which such Order as aforesaid shall be made, the said Justices shall, at their Special or Petty Sessions, prescribe general Rules and Regulations for the Guidance of the Overseer and Overseers in the Application of the Stock of Provisions so ordered, giving Notice thereof to the respective Overseers of the Poor, in such Manner as they in their Discretion shall judge convenient; and may from Time to Time alter and amend the said Rules and Regulations, at Special or Petty Sessions, as to them shall seem meet, giving Notice of such Alteration or Amendment as aforesaid; and the said Justices shall further, in every such Case, direct and order, that in every Case where Relief shall have been or shall be ordered to be given, or shall be allowed to any poor Person, or to or in respect of his or her Family, or any Part thereof, a certain Portion of such Relief, not exceeding the Portion herein-after mentioned, shall be made either by a Distribution of such of the several Articles of Food, in lieu of such Portion of Relief, conformably to the said general Rules and Regulations, or in such Proportions as the said Justices shall, in and by their Order, direct; or where such Distribution shall not be made, then by a Sale of such of the said several Articles, or any of them, to the Person or Persons obtaining such Relief, as he, she, or they shall choose, at such reasonable Prices as shall be settled by the Overseer or Overseers, with the Consent of Two Justices of the Division or Place, such Prices not to exceed the Rate of the Prime Cost of the Articles, and such a *per Centage* on the Prime Cost, over and above the same, as may be necessary to defray the Charges of Sale, such *per Centage* to be fixed by the said Justices, in consideration of the Circumstances attending the Purchase and Sale of the said Articles.

Parochial Relief may be administered in Articles of Food in a certain Proportion.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Whole, or any Part of the Parochial Relief ordered or allowed to any Person, or to or in respect of his or her Family, may be administered in any of the Articles of Food, to be furnished in pursuance of this Act, as the Case may require, in lieu of a Sum of Money equal to the Price of such Articles, as the same shall be settled by the respective Justices, and the Proportion thereof shall be fixed at the Discretion of the respective Justices, provided such Proportion shall in no Case exceed weekly the Value of One Third of the Parochial Relief given to any Person, or his or her Family, subsisting wholly on Parochial Relief, or One Third of the joint Amount of the weekly Earnings of any Person, and his or her Family, and the Parochial Relief ordered or allowed to him or her, or for or in respect of his or her Family.

Money given for distributing Bread, may be distributed by Order of Two Justices in Bread made as herein directed.

V. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases in which any Sum or Sums of Money have been given or bequeathed for the Purpose of providing Bread to be given or distributed among the Poor of any Parish or Place, it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace acting in and for the County, Riding, or Division in which such Parish or Place shall be situated, to direct such Distribution to be made in Bread made of the whole Produce of Wheat, or in Bread made of Wheat Flour mixed with the Flour or Meal of any other wholesome Grain, and not

not in Fine Wheaten Bread: Provided always, That the Value of the Bread ſo diſtributed ſhall be equal to the Value of the Fine Wheaten Bread which has uſually been ſo diſtributed or given.

Two Juſtices may inſpect or appoint a Perſon to inſpect the Articles provided, and take, or require the Overſeers to render, an Account of the Kinds, Qualities, Quantities, and Prices, and the Stock then in Hand.

Penalty for obſtructing Juſtices, or not rendering a true Account.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for any Two Juſtices of the Peace of the Diviſion or Place, at their Diſcretion, to inſpect and examine, or to appoint a fit and proper Perſon to inſpect and examine, the ſeveral Articles of Food provided in purſuance of this Act, and to take an Account, or require the Overſeer or Overſeers for the Time being to render an Account to them, of the Kinds, Qualities, Quantities, and Prices of the ſeveral Articles of Food ſo provided, and the Stock (if any) then in Hand, and from Time to Time to make ſuch Orders in Writing, and ſuch Alterations in any former Order, as to them ſhall ſeem meet; and if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall wilfully obſtruct or hinder any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, or any Perſon authorized as aforeſaid, in making ſuch Inſpection as aforeſaid, or demanding or requiring to make ſuch Inſpection as aforeſaid, or if any Overſeer or Overſeers ſhall not render any Account, or a true and faithful Account, of the ſeveral Articles of Food provided, or of the Stock in Hand, every ſuch Overſeer or Perſon ſhall forfeit a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds nor leſs than Five Pounds.

When the Juſtices in Seſſions ſhall have eſtabliſhed Rules, any One of the Diviſion may order the Overſeers to grant Relief by the Sale or Diſtribution of Food, or the Overſeers may do ſo, without ſuch Order.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That whenever the Juſtices of the Diviſion or Place, aſſembled at Special or Petty Seſſions, ſhall have directed and eſtabliſhed general Rules and Regulations, for the Guidance of the reſpective Overſeers within their Limits, in the Diſtribution of the Articles of Food to be provided in purſuance of this Act, it ſhall be lawful for any One Juſtice of the Diviſion or Place, by his Order in Writing, to direct, and for the Overſeer or Overſeers of the Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, without ſuch Order, to grant Relief to the Poor by the Sale or Diſtribution of Food, conformably to ſuch Rules and Regulations, and to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Firſt Meeting of Juſtices to be within a limited Time, and if not ſo held in any Place, the Juſtices at the Quarter Seſſions to execute this Act, unleſs they allow further Time to the Special Seſſions.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the Firſt Meeting of Juſtices to be held in their reſpective Diviſions and Places, in purſuance of this Act, ſhall not be later than Twenty-one Days after the paſſing of this Act; and in caſe no ſuch Meeting ſhall be held within the Time herein-before limited, in or for any Diviſion or Place, it ſhall be lawful for the Juſtices aſſembled at the then next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, or at any adjourned Seſſions, as herein-after provided, and they are hereby required to execute this Act, and to do all Matters and Things which the Juſtices at Special or Petty Seſſions are hereby authorized to do and execute, unleſs in their Diſcretion the ſaid Juſtices at General or Quarter Seſſions ſhall allow, and they are hereby authorized, either at ſuch Seſſions or at any Adjournment thereof, and ſo from Time to Time, in their Diſcretion, to allow further Time to the Juſtices to execute the ſame at Special or Petty Seſſions, within their reſpective Diviſions.

If any Special Seſſions deem it inconvenient to execute this Act, a Statement of the Cauſe ſhall

IX. And be it further enacted, That whenever the Juſtices aſſembled at the Special or Petty Seſſions for any Diviſion or Place ſhall, for any Cauſe, have deemed it inconvenient or impracticable to carry this Act into Execution, in any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, they ſhall, without Delay, draw up in Writing under their Hands, a Statement of the Cauſe

or Cauſes of ſuch Non-execution thereof, and tranſmit the ſame to the Clerk of the Peace, or Town Clerk, of the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, before the next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, or of any ſuch adjourned Seſſions; which Statement ſhall be laid before ſuch Juſtices on the Firſt Day of holding the ſaid Seſſions, or of any Adjournment thereof; and the ſaid Juſtices ſhall take into Conſideration the Cauſe or Cauſes ſo alledged, and ſhall adjudge upon and determine the ſame according to the beſt of their Judgement, and ſhall make ſuch Order therein as to them ſhall ſeem meet, which Order or Orders ſhall be revocable from Time to Time, as Circumſtances may require, by the Juſtices at any future General or Quarter Seſſions, or any ſuch adjourned Seſſions, or may be altered or varied by them as ſhall be expedient; but which Orders, being recorded amongſt the Proceedings of the ſaid Seſſions as herein-after directed, ſhall reſpectively be final and concluſive in all other Reſpects, and ſhall not be removed or removeable, by any Proceſs whatever, into any other Court, any Law, Uſage, or Cuſtom, to the contrary notwithſtanding; and that ſo long as this Act ſhall, in the Judgement of ſuch Juſtices, require to be further executed in any ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, they ſhall adjourn ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions, or ſhall appoint from Time to Time other General Seſſions to be held at ſuch Place or Places, at ſuch Time or Times as ſhall appear to them neceſſary for the due Execution of this Act.

be tranſmitted to the Clerk of the Peace, to be laid before the Quarter Seſſions for Determination, which Seſſions may be adjourned to ſuch Places and Times as may be neceſſary.

X. And be it further enacted, That the Juſtices aſſembled at their General or Quarter Seſſions, reſpectively, to be holden in the firſt Week after the *Epiphany* One thouſand eight hundred and one, are hereby required to adjourn the ſame to ſome Day, not later than the correſponding Day in the enſuing Calendar Month, and ſo from Time to Time, or from Month to Month, until the enſuing General or Quarter Seſſions, to be holden next after the Day of *Eaſter* One thouſand eight hundred and one, or until, in the Opinion of the ſaid Juſtices, this Act ſhall have been executed throughout their reſpective Juriſdictions, as far as Circumſtances will admit, and ſhall cauſe Notice of the Time and Place fixed for ſuch adjourned Seſſions to be publiſhed in ſome Newſpaper uſually circulated in the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place; and in every Caſe where a Special or Petty Seſſions ſhall not have been held in any Diviſion within ſuch County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, the ſaid Juſtices ſhall cauſe Notice to be given of the Time of holding ſuch adjourned Seſſions, to the Overſeer or Overſeers of the reſpective Pariſhes and Places within ſuch Diviſion, requiring him or them to attend at ſuch adjourned Seſſions, and may alſo require him or them to bring and lay before the ſaid Juſtices, ſuch Books and Papers, of a Publick Nature, as the ſaid Juſtices ſhall deem neceſſary; and whenever the ſaid Juſtices aſſembled at the General or Quarter Seſſions, or any adjourned Seſſions, ſhall ſee Cauſe not to carry this Act into Execution, in any Pariſh or Place within their reſpective Juriſdictions, or ſhall make any Order in purſuance of this Act, they ſhall cauſe a Record of their Proceedings to be made, and the reſpective Orders to be filed amongſt the Proceedings of the ſaid Seſſions, and a Copy or Copies of all Records, Orders, and Proceedings of the Court of General or Quarter Seſſions in any Way touching or concerning this Act, or any of the Proviſions thereof, ſhall be without Delay tranſmitted to His Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State.

The Juſtices at the *Epiphany* Quarter Seſſions ſhall adjourn it until they think the Act has been executed, and give Notice of Adjournment in ſome Newſpaper, and where a Special Seſſions has not been held, ſhall give like Notice to the Overſeers to attend with ſuch Papers as may be neceſſary, and when they ſhall ſee Cauſe not to carry the Act into Execution, or ſhall make any Order, they ſhall cauſe their Proceedings to be recorded, and a Copy ſhall be tranſmitted to the Secretary of State.

The Overſeers, with the Conſent of the Majority of the Inhabitants, or of the Select Veſtry where choſen, may furniſh a Stock of Articles, directed to be ſupplied by Overſeers, to Perſons, and contract with them for the Sale thereof, or for furniſhing ſuch Articles to be ſold to the Pariſhioners, at not more than the Prime Coſt, and a reaſonable *per Centage* to the Contractor.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Overſeers of the Poor, in any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, with the Conſent of the major Part of the Pariſhioners or Inhabitants of the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, in Veſtry, or other Pariſh or Publick Meeting, for that Purpoſe aſſembled, or with the Conſent of the major Part of the Select Veſtry, where ſuch Select Veſtry ſhall be choſen, for ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, at the uſual Place of Meeting, for that Purpoſe aſſembled, or of the major Part of ſuch of them as ſhall be reſpectively ſo aſſembled, to furniſh a Stock of the like Articles of Proviſions as may have been directed to be ſupplied by Overſeers, for the Support and Maintenance of the Poor in ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, to any Perſon or Perſons keeping a Shop or Shops, or ſelling Articles of Proviſions by Retail in the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, if any ſuch be there reſident, or reſiding at ſome convenient Diſtance therefrom, or any other proper Perſon or Perſons ſo reſident, and to contract with ſuch Perſons reſpectively for the Adminiſtration and Sale of ſuch Articles of Proviſions as aforeſaid, or to contract with any ſuch Perſon or Perſons for the furniſhing of ſuch Article or Articles of Proviſions, to be ſold to any Inhabitants of the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for themſelves or their Families, who ſhall apply for the Purchaſe of ſuch Articles, in a Quantity or Quantities proportioned to the neceſſary Conſumption of his or her Family, or their reſpective Families; and ſuch Articles ſhall be ſold for Ready Money only, and at ſuch reaſonable Prices as ſhall have been ſettled between ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, and the Perſon or Perſons entering into ſuch Contract; ſuch Prices in no Caſe to exceed the Prime Coſt of the Article, and a reaſonable *per Centage* thereon, over and above the ſame, ſuch *per Centage* to be had, received, and taken by and for the ſole Uſe and Benefit of the Perſon or Perſons entering into ſuch Contract, as a Compenſation for the Labour and Care employed in and about the ſame, and to be fixed or limited by a Contract in Writing, under the Hands of the Overſeer or Overſeers, or the major Part of them, and allowed by Two Juſtices of the ſame Diviſion or Place, on Conſideration of the Circumſtances under which ſuch Contract ſhall be made; and for the better Performance of ſuch Contract, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Overſeer or Overſeers, with ſuch Conſent as aforeſaid, to raiſe, by a Rate to be made for the Relief of the Poor, as much Money as will be neceſſary to purchaſe an adequate Stock of ſuch Proviſions, or to apply, out of the Monies raiſed by ſuch Rates, the requiſite Sum for that Purpoſe, and to advance the ſame either in Payment for ſuch Articles of Proviſions as ſhall be furniſhed by ſuch Overſeers, or to the Perſon or Perſons entering into any Contract for furniſhing the ſame, in ſuch Proportions, and to be re-paid at ſuch Times, as ſhall be fixed in ſuch Contract.

Overſeers, with Conſent as aforeſaid, may raiſe, by a Poor Rate, Money to purchaſe ſuch Stock, and advance the ſame in Payment thereof, or to the Contractors.

If Contractors do not duly repay Money advanced, Two Juſtices may order their Goods to be ſeized and ſold, and if inſufficient, the Sum due may be recovered by an Action on the Caſe.

XII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon that ſhall, by virtue of this Act, enter into any Contract with any Overſeer or Overſeers of the Poor of any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for the furniſhing of any Article or Articles of Proviſions as aforeſaid, ſhall neglect or refuſe to re-pay any Sum or Sums of Money, which ſhall have been advanced to him by ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, at the Time or Times fixed in ſuch Contract for Re-payment, then on due Proof thereof, on the Oath or Oaths, or ſolemn Affirmations, of the Overſeer or Overſeers of the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for the Time being, that any Sum of Money

Money ſo advanced hath not been re-paid at the Time or Times fixed for Re-payment thereof, but then remains due, it ſhall be lawful for Two Juſtices of the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, in their reſpective Diviſions, and they are hereby required, on Complaint of ſuch Neglect or Refuſal, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to cauſe the Goods and Chattels of the Perſon ſo contracting, or which ſhall come into the Hands of his Executors or Adminiſtrators, whereſoever the ſame can be found, to be ſeized and ſecured; and in caſe the Sum of Money ſo due, or any Part thereof, be not ſooner paid or ſatisfied, to cauſe the ſaid Goods and Chattels to be ſold, to ſatisfy and pay ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, as well the Money ſo advanced, as the Coſts of ſuch Seizure, Detention, and Sale, returning the Overplus (if any) to the Party; and if any Part of the Monies ſhall remain unſatisfied after ſuch Seizure and Sale, the ſame ſhall be recovered in an Action on the Caſe for Money had and received, by and in the Name of the Overſeer or Overſeers of the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for the Time being, againſt the Perſon ſo contracting, his Executors or Adminiſtrators, which Action may be brought in any Court in this Kingdom holding Pleas to the Amount of the Sum due as aforeſaid.

If any Perſon ſhall advance Money to the Overſeers for the Purchaſe of Proviſions, it ſhall be repaid from the Sale of the Articles or from the Poor Rates, at the Time agreed, and if not paid, any Juſtice of the Place may ſummon the Overſeers, and if neceſſary may order a Rate to be forthwith raiſed, or if the Overſeers have Money, or ſufficient Rates ſhall have been made, may order immediate Payment.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, with the Conſent of ſuch major Part of the Inhabitants or ſelect Veſtry aſſembled as aforeſaid, voluntarily advance, and lend to the Overſeer or Overſeers of the Poor of any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, any Sum or Sums of Money towards or for the Purchaſe of a Stock of Proviſions, to be applied for the Support and Maintenance of the Inhabitants of ſuch Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, by all or any of the Ways provided by this Act, and ſhall agree to continue ſuch Loan for a Time to be limited, not exceeding the Space of Three Calendar Months, or if, at or after the Expiration of Three Calendar Months, or other Time limited, ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall agree to continue ſuch Loan for a like further Period, the Sum or Sums ſo advanced and lent ſhall be repaid at ſuch Time or Times, by the Overſeer or Overſeers for the Time being, out of any Money in their Hands, ariſing from the Sale of the ſaid Article, or from the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor of each Pariſh, Townſhip, and Place reſpectively; and ſuch Rates ſhall from Time to Time ſtand as a Security for ſuch Re payment; and in caſe any Sum or Sums of Money ſo advanced and lent ſhall not be paid and ſatisfied at the Time or Times limited for ſuch Payment, or within the Space of Twenty Days after Demand thereof ſhall be made from ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, it ſhall be lawful for any one or more of the Juſtices of the Peace of the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, to ſummon the Overſeer or Overſeers who ſhall refuſe or neglect to make ſuch Payment, and, if neceſſary, to order a Rate or Rates, for the Relief of the Poor, to be forthwith made, raiſed, and collected by ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers, within the ſame Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, for the ſpeedy Payment of ſo much as ſhall appear to ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices to be due to the Perſon or Perſons advancing or lending ſuch Sum or Sums; or if ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers ſhall then have Monies in his or their Hands, or ſufficient Rates for that Purpoſe ſhall have been made, to order immediate Payment to be made of ſuch Sum and Sums reſpectively, together with ſuch Charges as may have been incurred by ſuch Perſon or Perſons, in conſequence of ſuch Refuſal or Neglect; and if the Overſeer or Overſeers

If Overſeers do not obey the Order, the Money may be raiſed by Diſtreſs.

ſeers ſhall refuſe or neglect to obey the Order of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices in regard to the Matters laſt before-mentioned, the Sum directed to be paid by ſuch Order ſhall be recovered by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of ſuch Overſeer or Overſeers reſpectively, together with the Coſts attending ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale, rendering the Overplus (if any) to the Owner.

The Majority of the Pariſhioners, or of the Select Veſtry where choſen, may appoint Houſeholders willing to act *gratis* with the Overſeers.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the major Part of the Pariſhioners or Inhabitants of any Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, in Veſtry or other Pariſh or Publick Meeting ſo aſſembled as aforeſaid, or for the major Part of the Select Veſtry, where ſuch Select Veſtry ſhall be choſen, to nominate and appoint Two or more, according to the Extent of the Pariſh, ſuch ſubſtantial Houſeholders of the ſaid Pariſh, Townſhip, or Place, as are willing to act, without Fee or Reward, to exerciſe, conjointly with the Overſeers of the Poor, all the Powers given to them by this Act, in thoſe Caſes, in which ſuch Overſeers ſhall be empowered by their reſpective Veſtries or Pariſh Meetings, to provide a Stock of Proviſions for Sale to the Inhabitants, except the Powers of making and enforcing the Rates to be levied for that Purpoſe.

Rules for carrying this Act into Execution with reſpect to the Poor in Houſes of Induſtry, in Places incorporated for their Maintenance, and in Workhouſes erected in purſuance of Acts of Parliament.

XV. And whereas certain Hundreds, Towns, and Diſtricts, have, for the better Maintenance and Employment of the Poor, been incorporated by virtue of divers Acts of Parliament paſſed for that Purpoſe; and Houſes of Induſtry have been erected therein, under the Guidance and Management of Directors and Guardians of the Poor: And whereas certain Workhouſes have been erected, in purſuance of certain other Acts of Parliament, in divers Pariſhes and Places in *England* not ſo incorporated, for the Purpoſe of maintaining and ſupporting the Poor therein, which have been placed under the Management of Governors or others contracting to ſupport and maintain the Poor, or may be under the Controul of the reſpective Overſeers of the Poor; and it is expedient that the Poor received into any ſuch Houſes of Induſtry, or Workhouſes, ſhould be ſupplied with Proviſions, according to the Regulations of this Act; be it further enacted, That in reſpect of all ſuch poor Perſons as ſhall have been or ſhall be received into any ſuch Houſe of Induſtry or Workhouſe, the reſpective Directors, Guardians of the Poor, Governors, and Overſeers aforeſaid, as the Caſe may be, ſhall have Authority, and they are hereby reſpectively required, to carry this Act into Execution, in all Matters appertaining thereto, as fully and effectually, as the Juſtices at Special or Petty Seſſions are hereby authorized in any Matter relating to the Poor who receive Relief from the reſpective Overſeers of the Poor; and the ſaid Directors, Guardians, Governors, and others, having the Guidance, Management, or Controul of any ſuch Houſe of Induſtry, or Workhouſe, are hereby required, as ſoon after the Expiration of Fourteen Days after the paſſing of this Act as conveniently can be done, to provide from Time to Time a ſufficient Stock of wholeſome and nutritious Food of any Kind whatever, which they ſhall think neceſſary, (other than and except Bread made wholly of Wheat or Wheaten Flour), for the Uſe, Support, and Maintenance of the Poor in their reſpective Houſes of Induſtry and Workhouſes, and to limit and appoint the Quantity of each Article to be diſtributed, Daily or Weekly, or from Time to Time, to each poor Perſon, and to ſet down the Kinds and Quantity of each Kind, ſo

ſo to be provided and diſtributed, in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe, which Books ſhall be open to the Inſpection of any Juſtice of the Peace of the Diviſion or Place where ſuch Houſe of Induſtry or Workhouſe ſhall be ſituate; and the ſaid Directors, Guardians, Governors, and Overſeers, ſhall, at the next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be held for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, report their Proceedings to the Juſtices there aſſembled, and the Cauſe or Cauſes (if any) which ſhall have prevented, or are likely to prevent, their carrying this Act into Execution, according to the true Intent and Meaning thereof, and the Juſtices, at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions, are hereby authorized and required to conſider the ſame, and to confirm the ſame, or to make ſuch Alterations therein, and ſuch Regulations in reſpect thereof as to them ſhall ſeem expedient, and to make an Order accordingly, which Order ſhall be obeyed by the ſaid Directors, Guardians, Governors, and Overſeers reſpectively, as the Caſe may require, in all Matters and Things therein or thereby confirmed or altered, regulated or ordered, under the Penalty directed to be inflicted by this Act on Overſeers for Diſobedience of the Orders of Juſtices at Special or Petty Seſſions, or which by Law may be inflicted for Diſobedience of an Order of the Court of General or Quarter Seſſions, and which Order ſhall be revocable from Time to Time, as Circumſtances may require, by the Juſtices at any future General or Quarter Seſſions, or may be altered or varied by them as ſhall be expedient; but which Orders ſhall reſpectively be final and concluſive in all other Reſpects, and ſhall not be removed or removeable by any Proceſs whatever, into any other Court; any Law, Uſage, or Cuſtom, to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Juſtices in Special Seſſions may order Food for Perſons who have not been received into ſuch Houſes of Induſtry or Workhouſes.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That in reſpect of all ſuch Perſons belonging to any incorporated Hundred, Town, or Diſtrict, or to any Pariſh or Pariſhes, Place or Places, where any ſuch Houſe of Induſtry or Workhouſe ſhall have been erected, who ſhall require Parochial Relief, but ſhall not have been received into ſuch Houſe of Induſtry, or Workhouſe, the Juſtices of the Diviſion or Place, aſſembled at their Special or Petty Seſſions, or any Two or more of them, ſhall have Authority to make Order for providing Food for the ſaid Perſons by the ſaid Directors, Guardians, and Overſeers reſpectively, as effectually as they are hereby authorized to do in other Caſes of Perſons requiring Parochial Relief, ſubject to ſuch Controul of the Juſtices, at their General or Quarter Seſſions, as is herein-before directed in the Caſes where this Act ſhall not have been executed.

Expences incurred by Overſeers in the Execution of this Act, and Allowances for Inſpection of Proviſions, to be defrayed out of the Poor Rates.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That ſuch Charges and Expences incurred by any Overſeer or Overſeers of the Poor in the Execution of this Act, and ſuch moderate Allowance for the Trouble and Loſs of Time of ſuch Overſeer, or Overſeers, or Perſons employed in the Inſpection of ſuch Proviſions, as ſhall be allowed and approved by any Two or more Juſtices of the Peace of the Diviſion or Place, ſhall be defrayed out of the Rates made, or to be made, for the Relief of the Poor for each Pariſh, Townſhip, and Place reſpectively; which Rates they are hereby empowered to make, or cauſe to be made, whenever the ſame ſhall be neceſſary, in ſuch Manner as they are empowered to make Rates for the Relief of the Poor by any Law now in force.

Juſtices for Offences for which pecuniary Penalties are incurred, may determine the Matter in a ſummary Way, and on Non-payment may iſſue Warrants for apprehending Offenders, &c.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, within whoſe Juriſdiction any Offence or Offences againſt this Act ſhall be committed, for which any pecuniary Penalty ſhall be incurred, or the Perſon charged with ſuch Offence ſhall reſide, upon Complaint or Information to him or them made, to ſummon the Party or Parties accuſed, and alſo the Witneſſes on either Side, to appear before him or them, at a certain Time and Place in ſuch Summons to be ſpecified; and upon the Appearance of the Party or Parties accuſed, or in Default of his, her, or their Appearance according to ſuch Summons, (due Proof being made of the Service of ſuch Summons), to proceed to hear and determine the Matter in a ſummary Way; and upon due Proof made of the Offence, either by the voluntary Confeſſion of the Party or Parties accuſed, or by the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, (which Oath or Oaths the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices is or are empowered to adminiſter), to convict the Party or Parties, and to award and adjudge the Penalties impoſed by this Act, to be paid by ſuch Offender or Offenders, together with reaſonable Coſts and Charges attending ſuch Conviction; and upon Non-payment of the Sum ſo awarded, either immediately, or at ſuch Time as the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices ſhall appoint, not exceeding Seven Days, ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices before whom ſuch Conviction ſhall be had, is or are hereby empowered and authorized to iſſue his or their Warrant for apprehending ſuch Offender; and in caſe ſuch Offender ſhall eſcape or go out of the Juriſdiction of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, it ſhall and may be lawful for any other Juſtice of the Peace, of the County or Place where ſuch Offender ſhall be found, by Indorſement of ſuch Warrant, to authorize the Execution thereof within the Juriſdiction of ſuch Juſtice; and the Juſtice or Juſtices who granted ſuch Warrant may, upon the Offender being brought before him or them, commit ſuch Offender to ſome publick Priſon or Houſe of Correction of the City, County, or Place in which ſuch Offence ſhall have been committed, or ſuch Offender ſhall have reſided, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Term not exceeding One Calendar Month, nor leſs than Fourteen Days, from the Day of every ſuch Commitment, unleſs ſuch Offender ſhall ſooner pay the Sum to be mentioned in every ſuch Warrant of Commitment.

Penalty on Witneſſes not appearing or refuſing to anſwer Queſtions.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall be ſummoned as a Witneſs or Witneſſes, to give Evidence before any ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, touching any Matter contained in this Act, and ſhall neglect or refuſe to appear at a Time and Place for that Purpoſe appointed, without a reaſonable Excuſe for ſuch his or their Neglect or Refuſal, to be allowed of by ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, every ſuch Perſon ſhall forfeit and pay for every ſuch Offence, any Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings, nor leſs than Twenty Shillings, to be levied and paid in ſuch Manner and by ſuch Means as herein-before directed with reſpect to other Penalties; and if any Perſon or Perſons ſummoned as a Witneſs or Witneſſes to give Evidence as aforeſaid, ſhall appear at the Time and Place for that Purpoſe appointed, but ſhall refuſe to anſwer any lawful Queſtions ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices may think proper to put to him, ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices may commit every ſuch Perſon to ſome Priſon or Houſe of Correction of the City, County, or Place, within the Juriſdiction of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices,

for any Time not exceeding Fourteen Days from the Time of every ſuch Commitment.

XX. And be it further enacted, That the Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace before whom any Offender ſhall be convicted as aforeſaid, ſhall cauſe the ſaid Conviction to be made out in the following Form of Words, or in any Form of Words to the ſame Effect; (that is to ſay), Convictions to be made out in the following Form.

'To wit, } BE it remembered, That on this Day of in the Year of His Majeſty King A. B. is convicted before me (*or*, us) One (*or*, Two) of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the [*as the Caſe may be*] for that the ſaid *A. B.* on the Day of now laſt paſt, did, contrary to the Statute in that Caſe made and provided [*here ſtate the Offence againſt the Act*], and I (*or*, we) do declare and adjudge that the ſaid *A. B.* hath forfeited the Sum of of lawful Money of *Great Britain*, for the Offence aforeſaid. Given under my Hand and Seal (*or*, our Hands and Seals) the Day and Year aforeſaid.'

And the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices before whom ſuch Conviction ſhall be had, ſhall certify the ſame to the next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be holden for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, wherein ſuch Conviction was had, to be filed and kept amongſt the Records of the ſaid General or Quarter Seſſions; and ſuch Conviction ſhall be good and valid in the Law, to all Intents and Purpoſes, and ſhall not be quaſhed, ſet aſide, or judged void or inſufficient, for Want of Form only, and ſhall not be liable to be removed by any Proceſs whatever into any other Court, but ſhall be deemed and taken to be final to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever. Conviction to be certified to the Quarter Seſſions to be filed, and ſhall not be quaſhed for Want of Form, or removed into any other Court.

XXI. Provided nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That all and every Perſon and Perſons who ſhall think him, her, or themſelves aggrieved, by the Judgement or Determination of any ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid, in reſpect of any pecuniary Penalty, may appeal to the Juſtices of the Peace for the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place where ſuch Judgement ſhall be given, at their then next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, unleſs ſuch next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace ſhall happen to be holden within Six Days next after any ſuch Conviction; and in ſuch Caſe ſuch Perſon or Perſons may appeal to the next ſubſequent General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace which ſhall be holden for any ſuch County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place; but no ſuch Appeal ſhall be received, heard, or determined, unleſs the Appellant or Appellants ſhall firſt enter into a Recognizance, with Two ſufficient Sureties, before ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices ſo convicting as aforeſaid, in the Sum of Ten Pounds each, to appear and proſecute every ſuch Appeal with Effect; and the Juſtices of the Peace at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace are hereby authorized and required, on every ſuch Appeal being made, and on reaſonable Notice thereof given to the other Party, finally to hear and determine the Matter of every ſuch Appeal, and to make ſuch Order, and to award ſuch Coſts therein, as they in their Diſcretion ſhall ſee meet; and which ſaid Order and Determination ſhall be final and concluſive to all Parties; and no *Certiorari* ſhall be allowed to remove any ſuch Proceedings or Determination. Appeal may be made to the Quarter Seſſions.

XXII. And

Application of Penalties.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That One Moiety of the Penalties by this Act impoſed ſhall, when recovered, go and be paid to the Perſon or Perſons who ſhall proſecute to Conviction any ſuch Offender or Offenders, and the other Moiety to the Poor of the Pariſh in which the Offence ſhall be committed.

Limitation of Actions.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That no Perſon ſhall be ſued or proſecuted for any Thing done in purſuance and in Execution of this Act, after the Expiration of Six Months from the Time when the Offence was committed; and every ſuch Suit or Proſecution ſhall be brought in the County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place where ſuch Offence ſhall have been committed, and not elſewhere; and every Perſon ſo ſued ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue (Not Guilty) and may give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and if a Verdict ſhall be found for the Defendant or Defendants, or if the Plaintiff ſhall become nonſuit, or diſcontinue his Action after the Defendant ſhall have appeared, or if Judgement ſhall be given upon a Demurrer againſt the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants in every ſuch Action ſhall receive Double Coſts, and have the like Remedy for the ſame, as Defendants have in other Caſes for the Recovery of their Coſts.

General Iſſue.

Double Coſts.

Continuance of Act.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall be in force until and upon the Sixth Day of *November* One thouſand eight hundred and one, and from thence until the End of Six Weeks after the Meeting of the then next Seſſion of Parliament, and no longer.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1800.