ANNO QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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CAP. XIII.

An Act to enable Commissioners to purchase certain Buildings for the Accommodation of the Two Houses of Parliament. [22d *December* 1800.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is necessary, for the Accommodation of the Two Houses of Parliament, that certain Houses and Buildings in *Old Palace Yard* should be purchased for the Publick Use; and it is expedient that the Value of such Houses, Buildings, and Tenements, should be ascertained by indifferent Persons, without Delay; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That *George Dance*, *Samuel Pepys Cockerell*, and *John Groves*, Esquires, shall be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for the Purchase of all such Houses, Buildings, and Tenements, as they may think necessary, for the completing the Purposes aforesaid; and that if any Person or Persons, seised or possessed of or interested in any Houses, Buildings, Lands, or Tenements, that shall by the said *George Dance*, *Samuel Pepys Cockerell*, and *John Groves*, be deemed necessary to be altered, removed, or pulled down, shall refuse to treat or agree for the Sale thereof, or shall not agree in the Sum of Money offered to be given for the same, or shall not, or cannot, produce a clear Title to the Premises they are in Possession of, or the Interest they claim therein, that then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any Two of them, by Writing under their Hands, to require the Sheriff of the County of *Middlesex*, who shall thereupon,

Commissioners appointed for the Purchase of Buildings for the Accommodation of Parliament, who, if the Parties refuse to sell, &c. may require the Sheriff to impannel a Jury to ascertain the Value of the Premises.

thereupon, and is hereby authorized and required to impannel, ſummon, and return a competent Number of ſubſtantial and diſintereſted Perſons qualified to ſerve as Jurors, not leſs than Twenty-four nor more than Forty-eight; and out of ſuch Perſons ſo to be impannelled, ſummoned, and returned, a Jury of Twelve Men ſhall be drawn by ſome Perſon to be by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, appointed, in ſuch Manner as Juries, for the Trial of Iſſues joined in His Majeſty's Courts at *Weſtminſter*, are by an Act, made in the Third Year of the Reign of His late Majeſty King *George* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the better Regulation of Juries*, directed to be drawn; which Perſons ſo to be impannelled, ſummoned, and returned as aforeſaid, are hereby required to come and appear before the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, at any ſuch Time and Place as in ſuch Summons ſhall be appointed, and all Parties concerned ſhall and may have their lawful Challenges againſt any of the ſaid Jurymen, but ſhall not be at Liberty to challenge the Array; and the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any of them, are hereby authorized and empowered from Time to Time, as Occaſion ſhall require, to call before them all and every Perſon and Perſons whomſoever, who ſhall be thought proper and neceſſary to be examined as a Witneſs or Witneſſes, on his, her, or their Oath or Oaths, touching or concerning the Premiſes; and the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, if they think fit, ſhall and may likewiſe authorize the ſaid Jury to view the Place or Places, or Premiſes in Queſtion, in ſuch Manner as they ſhall direct; and the ſaid Jury upon their Oaths (which Oaths, as alſo the Oaths of ſuch Perſon or Perſons as ſhall be called upon to give Evidence, the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, are hereby empowered and required to adminiſter) ſhall enquire of the Value of ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and of the proportionable Value of the reſpective Eſtates and Intereſts of all and every Perſons and Perſon ſeiſed or poſſeſſed thereof, or intereſted therein, or of or in any Part or Parts thereof, and ſhall aſſeſs and award the Sum or Sums of Money to be paid to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, Party or Parties reſpectively, for the Purchaſe of ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, and of ſuch reſpective Eſtates and Intereſts therein, and alſo for Good Will, Improvements, or any Injury or Damage whatſoever, that may affect any ſuch Perſon or Perſons, Party or Parties, either as Leaſeholder or Tenant at Will; and the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, ſhall and may give Judgement for ſuch Sum or Sums of Money ſo to be aſſeſſed; which Verdict or Verdicts, and the Judgement and Judgements, Determination and Determinations thereupon, ſhall be binding and concluſive to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever, againſt all and every Perſons and Perſon claiming any Eſtate, Right, Title, Truſt, Uſe, or Intereſt, in, to, or out of ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments and Premiſes, in Poſſeſſion, Reverſion, Remainder, or Expectancy, as well Infants and Iſſue unborn, Lunaticks, Ideots, and Femes Covert, and Perſons under any other legal Incapacity or Diſability, as all other Ceſtuique Truſts, their, his, and her Heirs, Succeſſors, Executors, and Adminiſtrators, and againſt all other Perſons whomſoever; and the ſaid Verdicts, Judgements, and Determinations, and all other Proceedings of the ſaid Commiſſioners and Juries ſo to be made, given, and pronounced as aforeſaid, ſhall be fairly written on Parchment, and ſigned by the Clerk of the Peace for the Time being of the County of *Middleſex*.

II. And

II. And be it further enacted, That upon Payment of any ſuch Sum or Sums ſo aſſeſſed to the Party or Parties to whom the ſame ſhall be ſo awarded, or on Tender thereof made at his, her, or their Dwelling Houſe, or if he, ſhe, or they ſhall have no Dwelling Houſe, then at the Houſe of ſome Tenant or Occupier of ſome Lands or Tenements of ſuch Party or Parties near the ſaid intended Works, he, ſhe, or they ſhall execute a Conveyance of the Premiſes which ſhall be ſo purchaſed, to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, for the Purpoſes of this Act; and in caſe ſuch Perſon or Perſons to whom ſuch Sum or Sums of Money ſhall be ſo awarded as aforeſaid, ſhall not be able to make a good Title to the Premiſes to the Satisfaction of the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, or ſhall refuſe to execute ſuch Conveyance or Conveyances, or in caſe ſuch Perſon or Perſons, to whom ſuch Sum or Sums of Money ſhall be ſo awarded as aforeſaid, cannot be found, or if the Perſon or Perſons entitled to ſuch Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, be not known or diſcovered, then and in every ſuch Caſe as aforeſaid it ſhall be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Two of them, to order the ſaid Sum and Sums aſſeſſed and awarded for any Purchaſe Money, or in Recompence for any Damage as aforeſaid, to be paid into the Bank of *England*, in the Name and with the Privity of the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery, to be placed to his Account to the Credit of the Parties intereſted in the ſaid Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, (deſcribing them), ſubject to the Order, Controul, and Diſpoſition of the ſaid Court of Chancery; which ſaid Court of Chancery, on the Application of any Perſon or Perſons making Claim to ſuch Sum or Sums of Money, or any Part thereof, by Motion or Petition, ſhall be and is hereby empowered, in a ſummary Way of proceeding or otherwiſe as to the ſame Court ſhall ſeem meet, to order the ſame to be laid out and inveſted in the Publick Funds, and to order Diſtribution thereof, on Payment of the Dividends thereof, according to the reſpective Eſtate or Eſtates, Title or Intereſt of the Perſon or Perſons making Claim thereto, and to make ſuch other Order in the Premiſes as to the ſaid Court ſhall ſeem juſt and reaſonable; and the Caſhier or Caſhiers of the Bank of *England*, who ſhall receive ſuch Sum and Sums of Money, is and are hereby required to give a Receipt or Receipts for ſuch Sum or Sums, mentioning and ſpecifying for what and for whoſe Uſe the ſame is or are received, to ſuch Perſon or Perſons as ſhall pay any ſuch Sum or Sums of Money into the Bank as aforeſaid.

Upon Payment of the Sums aſſeſſed, the Parties ſhall convey the Premiſes to the Commiſſioners, and if they cannot make a Title, refuſe to convey, or cannot be found, the Commiſſioners may order the Money to be paid into the Bank, ſubject to the Order of the Court of Chancery.

III. And be it further enacted, That immediately after paying ſuch Purchaſe Money as aforeſaid into the Bank, the ſaid Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in reſpect whereof the ſame ſhall have been ſo paid, ſhall veſt in His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, who ſhall be deemed in Law to be in the actual Poſſeſſion thereof, to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever, freed and diſcharged from all former and other Eſtates, Rights, Titles, Intereſts, Claims, and Demands whatſoever.

After ſuch Payment into the Bank, the Premiſes ſhall veſt in His Majeſty.

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