Anno ſexto

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for building a Bridge croſs the River *Thames*, from *Batterſea* in the County of *Surry*, to *Chelſea* in the County of *Middleſex*.

WHEREAS the Ferry over the River Thames, from Batterſea in the County of Surry, to Chelſea in the County of Middleſex, is very inconvenient and dangerous, and ſometimes impaſſable: And whereas the Right Honourable John Earl Spencer, is the Owner and Proprietor of the ſaid Ferry, and hath propoſed, and is willing and deſirous, at his own Expence, to build a Bridge over the ſaid River, at or near the ſaid Ferry, whereby many Miſchiefs and Inconveniencies will be remedied, and great Advantages accrue to the Publick: May it therefore pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, Preamble.

Earl *Spencer* impowered to build a Bridge

That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs and Assigns, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and impowered, and shall have full Power and Authority by virtue of this Act, at his and their own proper Costs and Charges, by himself and themselves, his and their Deputies, Agents, Officers, Workmen, Servants, and others, to build a Bridge

over the *Thames* from *Battersea* to *Chelsea*;

cross the River of Thames, from Battersea in the County of Surry, to Chelsea in the County of Middlesex, at any Place or Places, and as near as conveniently may be to the present Ferry; and for the Purposes aforesaid, he and they shall have full Power and Authority by himself and themselves, his and their Servants, Agents, Workmen, and others, to remove any Shelves, or other Obstructions in the said River, and to dig up and take away all Beds of Gravel, Sand, Mud, and any other Impediment, and to deepen and widen the said River, between Battersea aforesaid, and the opposite Side in the County of Middlesex; and also to dig and cut the Banks of the said River in such Manner as shall be necessary and proper for the building the said Bridge, and for preserving the Navigation of the said River (be it the Soil or Ground of the King's most Excellent Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, or of any other Person or Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, whatsoever) and to erect and make, in or over the said River, and the Lands adjoining, or near to the same, any Campshots, Trenches, and Landing Places; and to pull down and remove any Houses, or other Buildings,

and to turn and make any Highway or Path leading to the same,

Wharfs, Gates, or other Erections; and to amend, alter, turn, or remove, any Foot Bridge, Foot Path, and Horse Path; and to turn, widen, or alter, any Highway, or make any new Road leading to the said intended Bridge, within the Parish of Battersea in the County of Surry, and the Parish of Chelsea in the County of Middlesex, not exceeding Sixty Feet, nor less than Forty Feet wide, so as not to obstruct any common Highway leading to, from, or through, the Town of Battersea in the County of Surry, or the Town of Chelsea in the County of Middlesex; and from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, to do all other Matters and Things necessary and convenient for erecting and maintaining the said Bridge, and preserving the said Navigation, and for the Improvement thereof; he the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs and Assigns, doing as little Damage as may be, and first making Satisfaction and Recompence to the Owners, Proprietors, and Occupiers of, and Persons interested in, any Houses, Buildings,

making Satisfaction.

or

5

or other Erections, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, that ſhall be made uſe of, pulled down, damaged, or prejudiced, by, for, or upon Account of erecting and maintaining the ſaid Bridge, or preſerving and improving the Navigation near thereunto; or by, for, or upon Account of turning, widening, altering, and making any Paths or Highways as aforeſaid; or by, for, or upon Account of the doing and performing of any other Matter or Thing herein before authorized to be done and performed.

Proviſo. Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to dig up, remove, and take away, any Shelves, Beds of Gravel, Sand, or Mud, in the ſaid River of Thames, between Batterſea and Chelſea aforeſaid, other than and except what ſhall be neceſſary for the making proper Foundations for the Piers and Abutments of the ſaid intended Bridge.

Power for Corporations, &c. to ſell Lands. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for all Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Feoffees in Truſt, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Husbands, Guardians, Committees for Lunaticks and Ideots, and other Truſtees whatſoever, for and on the Behalf of themſelves, their Heirs and Succeſſors, Infants, or Iſſue unborn, Lunaticks, Ideots, Femes-Covert, or Ceſtuique Truſts, or other Perſons whatſoever, and to and for all Femes-Covert who are or ſhall be ſeized in their own Right, and to and for all and every Perſon or Perſons whomſoever, who are or ſhall be ſeized, or poſſeſſed of, or intereſted in, any ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Erections, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of any Tenure whatſoever, to treat, contract, and agree, with the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Aſſigns, for the Purchaſe thereof, or of any Part thereof, or for their Intereſt therein, or by way of annual Rent for the ſame, and to ſell and convey the ſame, as Occaſion ſhall be or require; and all Contracts, Agreements, Sales, and Conveyances, which ſhall be ſo made, ſhall be valid to all Intents and Purpoſes; any Law, Statute, Uſage, or any other Matter or Thing whatſoever, to the contrary thereof in any wiſe notwithſtanding: And all Feoffees in Truſt, Executors, Adminiſtrators, Husbands, Guardians, and Truſtees, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all other Perſons, are and ſhall be hereby indemnified for what they ſhall do by virtue or in purſuance of this Act.

Commissioners of Land Tax to settle Differences and Damages.

And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners of the Land Tax for the County of Surry, and the Commissioners of the Land Tax for the County of Middlesex, or any Five or more of such respective Commissioners together assembled, in such Manner as is herein after mentioned, shall be, and they are hereby constituted and appointed Commissioners respectively, for settling, determining, and adjusting, all Differences which shall happen to arise in each of their respective Counties, between the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs or Assigns, or any of them, and all and every Person or Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate, and Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, touching and concerning the Recompence and Satisfaction which shall be made to them, or any of them, for any Houses, Buildings, or other Erections, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of any Tenure whatsoever necessary for the Purposes aforesaid; and to adjust and settle what Share and Proportion of such Recompence and Satisfaction every Tenant, or other Person having a particular Estate, Term, or Interest, in any of the Premisses, shall have or receive for his, her, or their, respective Interest and Damages; and for the Damages they or any of them, shall sustain by and upon Account of the erecting and maintaining the said Bridge, and preserving or improving of the said Navigation; or by, for, or upon Account of pulling down, or removing any Houses, Buildings, or other Erections, or turning, widening, altering, or making, any Paths, Highways, or Roads, as aforesaid, or the doing and performing of any of the Matters or Things herein before authorized to be done and performed.

Persons neglecting to treat for Houses, Lands, &c.

And be it further enacted, That if any such Owner, Proprietor, Occupier, Trustee or Trustees, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, or any other Person or Persons interested in any such Houses, Buildings, or other Erections, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, upon Fourteen Days Notice to him, her, or them, given, or left in Writing at the Dwelling-house or Houses, or Place or Places of Abode, of such Person or Persons, or of the Head Officer or Officers of such Body Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, or at the House of the Tenant in Possession of such Houses, Buildings, or other Erections, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, shall neglect or refuse to treat, or shall not agree with the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs or Assigns, for the Purchase of any such Houses, Buildings, Erections, Lands, Tenements,

ments, and Hereditaments, or any Part or Parts thereof, or for their Interest therein, or for an annual Rent to be paid for the same, or through Disability, by Reason of Nonage, Coverture, Estate-Tail, or other Impediment whatsoever, cannot make any effectual or valid Agreement, or by reason of Absence, shall be prevented from treating as aforesaid; then, and in every or any such Case, the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall cause it to be inquired into, and ascertained by and upon the Oaths of a Jury of Twelve indifferent Men, what Damages will be sustained by, and what Recompence and Satisfaction shall be made to such Owners, Occupiers, or Proprietors of, or other Person or Persons respectively, interested in any such Houses, Buildings, Erections, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments; and in order thereto, the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered and authorized, from time to time, to issue their Warrant or Warrants, Precept or Precepts, directed to the Sheriff of the County respectively in which the Matter in Dispute shall lie, thereby requiring him to impannel, summon, and return, a Number of substantial and disinterested Persons, Inhabitants of such respective Counties, and qualified to serve on Juries, not less than Forty eight nor more than Seventy two; which Persons, such Sheriff, or his Deputy or Deputies, is and are hereby required to impannel, summon, and return accordingly: And out of such Persons so to be impannelled, summoned, and returned, or out of such of them as shall appear, according to or upon such Summons, a Jury of Twelve shall be drawn by such Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, or some Person to be by them, or any Five or more of them, appointed, in such Manner as Juries for the Trial of Issues, joined in his Majesty's Courts at Westminster, by an Act passed in the Third Year of his late Majesty, intituled, An Act for the better Regulation of Juries, are directed to be drawn; which Persons, so to be impannelled, summoned, and returned, are hereby required to appear before the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more them, at such Time and Place as in such Warrant or Warrants, Precept or Precepts, shall be directed and appointed, (of which Time and Place all Parties interested shall have Fourteen Days Notice given or left in manner as aforesaid) and to attend them, from Day to Day, till they shall be discharged by such Commissioners, or any Five

Commissioners may cause the Value to be ascertained by a Jury,

to be summoned by the Sheriff.

Five or more of them; 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 for Affinity or any other Cause whatsoever: And the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, are hereby authorized and impowered, by Precept or Precepts under their Hands, from time to time, as Occasion shall require, to call before them any Person or Persons, in order to be examined as a Witness or Witnesses upon Oath, before the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, or such Jury, touching and concerning the Premisses; and such Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, if they shall think fit, shall and may cause the said Jury to view the Place or Places in Question, and shall have Power to adjourn such Meeting, from Day to Day, as Occasion shall require, and to command such Jury, Witnesses, and Parties, to attend, until all the Matters, for which they were summoned, shall be concluded: And the said Jury, upon their Oaths (which Oaths, as also the Oaths to such Person or Persons as shall be called upon to give Evidence, the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered and required to administer) shall enquire touching the Value of such Houses, Buildings, or other Erections, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and of the respective Estate and Interest of all Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, seized or possessed of, or interested therein, or of or in any Part thereof, or the Damages which shall or may be done to any Houses, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Premisses, by the doing and performing of any of the Matters and Things herein before authorized to be done and performed, and shall assess the Sum or Sums, Rent or Rents, to be paid to every such Person or Persons, Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, for such their Estates and Interests, and as a Recompence and Satisfaction for the Damages they shall sustain as aforesaid; and the said respective Comissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall give Judgement for such Sum or Sums of Money, Rent or Rents, so to be assessed; and the Verdicts or Inquisitions of such respective Juries, and the Judgements, Orders, or Decrees thereupon, shall be final, binding, and conclusive, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, against the King's Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and all Parties or Persons whatsoever, as well

Commissioners may examine Witnesses.

Jury to enquire into the Value of any Houses, Lands, &c.

well abſent as preſent, Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, claiming any Eſtate, Right, Title, Truſt, Uſe, or Intereſt, in, to, or out of, ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or Premiſſes, either in Poſſeſſion, Reverſion, Remainder, Expectancy or otherwiſe, as well Infants and Iſſue unborn, Lunaticks, Ideots, and Femes-covert, and Perſons under any legal Incapacity or other Diſability whatſoever, and all other Ceſtuique Truſts, his, her, and their Heirs, Succeſſors, Executors, and Adminiſtrators, as againſt all other Perſons whomſoever; and all and every ſuch Owners, Occupiers, and Proprietors, and all and every Perſon and Perſons intereſted in ſuch Houſes, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and Premiſſes, ſhall thereby, after Payment or Tender, and Refuſal or Neglect, in manner as herein after-mentioned, be from thenceforth, to all Intents and Purpoſes, diveſted of all Right, Claim, Intereſt, or Property of, in, to, or out of, the ſame: And Two Tranſcripts of all ſuch Verdicts, or Inquiſitions, and Judgements, Orders, or Decrees, and all other Proceedings, of the ſaid reſpective Commiſſioners and Juries ſo to be made, given, and pronounced as aforeſaid, ſhall be fairly written on Parchment, ſigned and ſealed by Five or more of the Commiſſioners, making and pronouncing the ſame; One of which Tranſcripts, ſo ſigned and ſealed, ſhall be forthwith tranſmitted to the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs or Aſſigns; and the other of the ſaid Tranſcripts, ſo ſigned and ſealed, ſhall be forthwith tranſmitted to the Clerk of the Peace of the reſpective Counties of Surry or Middleſex, in which ſuch Judgement or Decree ſhall be made, to be carefully preſerved amongſt the Records of the ſaid County; and the ſaid Tranſcripts ſo ſigned and ſealed, ſhall be deemed and taken to be Records to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever; and the ſaid Tranſcripts, or true Copies thereof, ſigned and proved to be ſigned by the ſaid Clerk of the Peace, ſhall be deemed good and effectual Evidence in any Court of Law or Equity whatſoever; and all Perſons may have Recourſe to the ſame gratis, and take Copies thereof, paying for every Copy, not exceeding the Sum of Six Pence for every Two hundred Words, and ſo proportionably for any greater Number of Words; and upon Payment of the Sum or Sums of Money ſo aſſeſſed by ſuch Juries, and adjudged or decreed by ſuch reſpective Commiſſioners, to the Party or Parties concerned and intitled thereto as aforeſaid,

Tranſcripts of Proceedings to be made.

Same, or Copies to be Evidence.

said, or to their Agents, or legal Tender thereof made to him, her, or them, and Refusal to accept the same; or in case any such Person or Persons, after Fifteen Days Notice given to him, her, or them, or left at the House of the Occupier of the Premisses, shall refuse or neglect to receive the same; then, upon Payment thereof into the Hands of such Person or Persons as the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall, by any Writing under their Hands, appoint, for the Use of the Party or Parties interested as aforesaid, and to be paid upon Demand to him, her, or them, or to his, her, or their Agent or Agents; or, after such annual Rent or Rents shall be so assessed; it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns, to have, hold, use, and enjoy, such Houses, Buildings, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and Premisses, to and for his and their own proper Use and Benefit, and to and for his or their Agents, Workmen, and Servants, to pull down and dispose of any such Houses, Buildings, and Tenements, and to make use of any such Lands, Hereditaments, and other Premisses, for the Purposes of this Act; and this Act shall be sufficient to indemnify, as well the said Commissioners, as the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns, and all and every Person or Persons by him or any of them authorized and impowered therein, or acting under him or them, against such Owners, Proprietors, Occupiers, and Persons interested, their Heirs, Successors, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, and against all and every other Person or Persons whomsoever, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

In Default of a sufficient Number of Jurymen, Standers-by may be returned.

And be it further enacted, That in case of any Default of a sufficient Number of Jurymen to be sworn for the Purposes of this Act, the said respective Sheriff, or his Deputy, shall return other honest and indifferent Men of the Standers-by, or that can be speedily procured to attend that Service, as shall be necessary to make up the Number of Twelve to serve on such Jury; and that all Persons concerned shall, from time to time, have their lawful Challenges as aforesaid against any of such Jurymen when they come to be sworn; and that the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them acting in the Premisses, shall have full Power, from time to time, to impose any reasonable Fine or Fines on such Sheriff, his and their Deputy or Deputies, Bailiffs, or Agents respectively, making Default in the Premisses, or upon any Person or Persons

ſons who ſhall be ſummoned and returned on any ſuch Juries, and ſhall not appear, or who ſhall refuſe to be ſworn on the ſaid Jury or Juries, or being ſo ſworn, ſhall not give his or their Verdict, or in any other Manner wilfully neglect his or their Duty in the Premiſſes, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; and likewiſe upon ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſummoned as aforeſaid to give Evidence, who ſhall neglect or refuſe to appear at ſuch Time or Times, Place or Places, as ſhall be appointed for that Purpoſe as aforeſaid, or appearing ſhall refuſe to be ſworn, or to give Evidence, or to be examined by or before the ſaid reſpective Commiſſioners, or any Five or more of them; and, from time to time, to levy ſuch Fine or Fines by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of any Perſon or Perſons offending in any of the Matters or Things aforeſaid, by Warrant or Warrants under the Hands and Seals of ſuch Five or more of the acting Commiſſioners, to be directed to the Conſtable or other Peace Officer of the Townſhip, Pariſh, or Place, where ſuch Offender or Offenders ſhall live, which Conſtable or other Peace Officer is hereby required to execute the ſame, ſo as that no ſuch Fine exceed the Sum of Forty Shillings; which Fines ſhall be paid to the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Aſſigns, or to ſuch Perſon or Perſons as he or they ſhall appoint to receive the ſame.

Intereſted Perſons not to act.

Provided always, That no Perſon or Perſons whomſoever ſhall ſit or act as a Commiſſioner or Commiſſioners in any Caſe where he or they is or are in any ways directly or indirectly intereſted or concerned of or in the Matter or Matters in Queſtion; nor ſhall any Perſon whomſoever be ſworn to ſerve on any Jury, or be examined as a Witneſs, where he or ſhe is any ways directly or indirectly intereſted in any Matter in Queſtion.

Poſſeſſion not to be taken till Payment.

Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Aſſigns, ſhall not take Poſſeſſion of, or intromit himſelf or themſelves into any ſuch Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, until ſuch Payment or Depoſit of the Recompence or Satisfaction ſo aſſeſſed and adjudged ſhall be made as aforeſaid; or in caſe of Rent, until the ſame ſhall be ſo aſſeſſed and adjudged; otherwiſe than by ſurveying, taking a Level of, and marking out the Ground which he or they intend to make uſe of for the Purpoſes aforeſaid, and which it ſhall and may be lawful to and for him or them, with

with Workmen, Surveyors, and other proper Assistants, from time to time, and at every convenient Time to do; he and they doing thereby as little Damage as may be, and giving Four Days Notice to the Owner, Proprietor, Occupier, or Possessor of such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the Time of his or their coming to make such Survey, or to take such Levels, or to mark out such Grounds, in order that such Owner, Occupier, or Possessor, may be there present, if he, she, or they shall think fit; and making Satisfaction for all Damages that shall be done to any Grass or Corn by making such Survey, taking such Level, or marking out such Ground, so as such Damage exceed the Value of One Shilling.

Damages ascertained by a Jury.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons, at any Time after the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, his or their Agents or Workmen, shall begin to erect the said Bridge, shall sustain any Damage or Injury in his, her, or their Houses, Buildings, Lands, or other Hereditaments, for which he, she, or they, shall have had no Recompence, by any Act, Neglect, or Default, of the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns; then, and in such Case, the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall inquire of, and ascertain such Damage and Recompence, by a Jury to be impannelled and returned as aforesaid, in like Manner and Form as Damages and Recompence are herein before appointed to be assessed and adjudged; and in Default of Payment thereof, by a certain Day to be appointed by the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall and may, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, authorize and impower such Person or Persons as they shall think fit, to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, or any of them, together with such Costs and Charges as such Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall, in such their Warrant, direct; rendering to the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, the Overplus, if any be, after deducting the Charges of such Distress and Sale; or otherwise, such Party or Parties so grieved shall and may have Remedy for such Sum and Sums of Money so assessed, and not paid according to the Judgement of such Commissioners as aforesaid, by Action of Debt, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, or in

any

any other Court of Record, against the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns.

When to apply for Damages.

Provided nevertheless, That all and every Person or Persons, who shall sustain any such Damage or Injury, shall apply to the said respective Commissioners, and proceed as herein before directed, to determine and adjust the same, and the Recompence or Satisfaction to be made or given in respect thereof, within Six Months after any such Damage done or Injury received, and not afterwards; any thing herein before contained to the contrary notwithstanding: And the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns, is and are to have a special Regard to the neighbouring Lands and Tenements, and to provide and take Care, from time to time, that there be no overflowing thereof, occasioned by the said Bridge; or if any such at any Time or Times happen, forthwith to remedy, and provide against the same for the Future.

Meeting of Commissioners.

And be it further enacted, That no Meeting shall be held by the said respective Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, at any Place that shall be above Two Miles distance from the Place where the Controversy or the Matter to be enquired of shall arise or lie.

Action for Rent.

And be it further enacted, That all and every annual Rent or Rents to be agreed for or assessed as aforesaid, for any Lands, Tenements, or other Hereditaments, shall, from time to time, as the same shall become due, be paid by the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, quarterly, to the Person or Persons who shall be intitled thereto; and such Person or Persons shall have the same Estate and Interest, in such annual Rent or Rents, as they would have had in the said Premisses in case this Act had never been made; and in Default of Payment thereof by the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, within Thirty Days after the same shall become due (and being lawfully demanded) it shall and may be lawful for the Person or Persons who shall, from time to time, be intitled to the said annual Rents, or any of them, to commence and prosecute One or more Action or Actions at Law, on the Case, or in Debt, against the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns; and shall and may, upon such Action or Actions, recover the Money then due, together with Costs of Suit, and have such Remedies for the same as are allowed by Law in other Cases.

And be it further enacted, That for and in Consideration of the great Charges that the said Earl Spencer,

his Heirs, and Assigns, will be obliged to defray in erecting the said Bridge, and repairing and supporting the same, and also in doing and performing the several other Matters and Things necessary, and herein before authorized to be done and performed, the said Bridge, when built, shall be, and is hereby vested in the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns for ever; and it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns, from time to time, and at all Times hereafter, to ask, demand, receive, recover and take to and for his and their own proper Use and Behoof, in respect of his and their Charges aforesaid, for Pontage, or in the Name of a Toll or Duty, before any Passage over the said Bridge shall be permitted, the several Sums following; that is to say,

The Bridge vested in Earl *Spencer*.

The Tolls.

For every Chaise, Chair, Calash, Cart, or Carriage, drawn by One Horse, the Sum of Four Pence.

For every Coach, Chariot, Berlin, Chaise, Chair, or Calash, drawn by Two Horses, the Sum of Eight Pence.

For every Coach, Chariot, Berlin, Chaise, Chair, or Calash, drawn by more than Two Horses, the Sum of One Shilling.

For every Waggon, Wain, Dray, Carr, Cart, or Carriage, drawn by Two Horses or Oxen, the Sum of Six Pence.

For every Waggon, Wain, Dray, Carr, Cart, or Carriage, drawn by Three or Four Horses or Oxen, the Sum of One Shilling.

For every Waggon, Wain, Dray, Carr, Cart, or Carriage, drawn by more than Four Horses or Oxen, the Sum of One Shilling and Six Pence.

For every Horse, Mule, or Ass, laden or unladen and not drawing, the Sum of One Penny.

For every Foot Passenger whatsoever One Halfpenny.

For every Drove of Oxen or Neat Cattle the Sum of Ten Pence per Score, and after that Rate for any greater or less Number; And,

For every Drove of Calves, Hogs, Sheep, or Lambs, the Sum of Five Pence per Score, and after that Rate for any greater or less Number.

How to be taken.

Which said respective Sums of Money shall be demanded and taken in the Name of Pontage, or as a Toll, or Duty; and the Monies to be received as aforesaid, and all other Monies to be received by Authority of this

Act,

Act, are hereby veſted in the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Aſſigns, and the ſame and every Part thereof ſhall be paid to him or them accordingly; and the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Aſſigns, is and are hereby authorized, by himſelf and themſelves, or by any Perſon or Perſons appointed by him or them, to levy the Toll or Duty hereby made payable upon any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall, after Demand thereof made, neglect or refuſe to pay the ſame as aforeſaid; and he the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Aſſigns, ſhall and may deny and refuſe to permit any Paſſage over the ſaid Bridge, until Payment thereof; and he, ſhe, or they, or any Perſon or Perſons appointed by him, her, or them, are hereby impowered to ſeize and diſtrain any Horſe, Cattle, or other Thing, upon or in reſpect of which ſuch Tolls or Duties ſhall be payable, or any other of the Goods and Chattles of ſuch Perſon or Perſons who ought to pay the ſame; and ſhall and may detain ſuch Diſtreſs for any Time not exceeding the Space of Four Days, and then, if the Tolls or Duties, for which the ſame Diſtreſs ſhall be ſo made, together with the Charges attending the diſtraining and keeping the ſame, ſhall not be fully paid and ſatisfied, ſhall and may ſell the ſame, rendering the Overplus, if any be, after Deduction of the Charges of diſtraining, keeping, and ſelling, ſuch Goods.

Drivers exempted.

Provided always, That the Driver of any Cart or other Carriage, drawn by Horſes or other Cattle, ſhall be permitted to paſs over the ſaid Bridge Toll-free; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Tolls may be altered.

And be it further enacted, That if the ſaid Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Aſſigns, ſhall, at any Time or Times hereafter, think proper to lower the ſaid Tolls or any of them, and to take leſs for paſſing over the ſaid Bridge than the Sums herein before mentioned, it ſhall and may be lawful for him or them ſo to do, and afterwards, at his or their Will and Pleaſure, again to raiſe the ſaid Tolls, ſo as not to exceed the ſaid reſpective Sums herein before mentioned, as Pontage or Toll for paſſing over the ſaid Bridge; any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Damage to the Bridge,

And, for preventing of the wilful or malicious deſtroying or damaging the ſaid Bridge or any Part thereof, or interrupting the Building of the ſame, be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall wilfully or maliciouſly burn, blow up, pull down, or otherwiſe deſtroy, the ſaid Bridge, or any Part thereof, or attempt

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so to be, or shall unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, and without Authority from the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, or Assigns, remove or take away any Works or Materials thereunto belonging, or in any wise direct or procure the same to be done, whereby the said Bridge, or the Works, or Materials thereof, may be damaged, or the Lives of Passengers endangered, every such Offender or Offenders, being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony and shall suffer as a Felon.

how to be punished.

And, for preventing Trespasses, Damages, and Mischiefs, that may be done, and committed by any evil-minded or disorderly Persons rowing, navigating, or managing of, any Boats, Barges, Lighters, or other Vessels in or upon the said River Thames; and to the end, that the Masters and Owners of such Boats, Barges, Lighters, or other Vessels, may be more careful therein, be it further enacted, That every Master and Masters, Owner and Owners, of any Boat or other Vessel, shall be, and is hereby made answerable and responsible for any wilful Damage or Mischief that shall be done by his or their Boat or Vessel, or by any of the Boatmen, or Watermen, or Crew, of or in such Boat or Vessel, to the said Bridge or any Part thereof, or to any of the Works which shall be erected by virtue of this Act; and the said Master or Masters, Owner or Owners, of every such Boat or Vessel, shall and may be, by the said Earl, his Heirs, or Assigns, sued for every such Trespass or Damage which shall be so done, in any Court of Record whatsoever.

Masters of Barges answerable for Damages done by their Men.

And whereas it may happen that the said Bridge may, in Times to come, receive such Damage as aforesaid, or by Tempest, or other unforeseen Accident, that the Passage thereof may for some Time become dangerous or impracticable, be it further enacted, That in all such Cases it shall be lawful for the said Earl Spencer, his Heirs, and Assigns, from time to time, as often as Occasion shall require, to provide a proper and convenient Ferry or Ferries cross the said River of Thames, at such Place or Places as he or they shall judge to be most proper and convenient, and as near to the said Bridge as conveniently may be; and there to take for Passage over the said River by such Ferry or Ferries, such Rates and Duties as are hereby directed to be paid for passing over the said Bridge.

A Ferry to be provided when Bridge not passable.

Provided always, That such Ferry or Ferries shall not continue for any longer Time than the Passage over the

the said Bridge shall or may be dangerous or impracticable as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That the said Bridge shall not be rated or assessed for or towards the Payment of the Land Tax, or any other Publick or Parochial Rate or Tax whatsoever; and that the said Bridge shall not be deemed a County Bridge, so as to subject the Counties of Surry and Middlesex, or either of them, to the repairing or supporting the same. As to Rates and Taxes.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice or take away any Right, Property, or Jurisdiction of the Mayor, or of the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of London, to, in, and upon the River of Thames aforesaid; other than and except to remove any Shelves as aforesaid, or to deepen or widen the said River in or near the Place where the said Bridge shall be built, and to do every other Matter or Thing which shall or may be necessary to be done and effected for the erecting, maintaining, and supporting, the said Bridge. Rights of the Mayor and City of *London* secured.

And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any Thing done or to be done in pursuance of this present Act, in every such Case, the Action or Suit shall be commenced within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid in One of the said Counties of Surry or Middlesex, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, Not Guilty, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence at the 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 Actions shall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be laid in any other County or Place, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, or if a Verdict shall pass against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; or if upon Demurrer Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; the Defendant or Defendants shall recover Treble Costs, and shall have such Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit in other Cases by Law. Limitation of Actions. General Issue. Treble Costs.

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

FINIS.