Anno ſeptimo

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. L.

An Act for amending certain Laws relating to the Revenue of the Poſt Office; and for granting Rates of Poſtage for the Conveyance of Letters and Packets between *Great Britain* and the *Iſle of Man*, and within that Iſland.



WHEREAS it is of the utmoſt Importance to the Trade and Commerce of theſe Kingdoms, that all Letters, Packets, Bank Notes, Bills of Exchange, and other Things, may be ſent and conveyed by the Poſt with the greateſt Safety and Security; and it having been found neceſſary, that ſome further Regulations and Proviſions ſhould be made for that Purpoſe; May it 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, That if any Deputy, Clerk, Agent, Letter-carrier, Poſt-boy, or Rider, or any other Officer or Perſon whatſoever, employed, or to be hereafter employed, in receiving, ſtamping, ſorting, charging, carrying, conveying, or delivering, Letters or Packets, or in any other Buſineſs relating to the Poſt Office, ſhall, from and after the Firſt Day

Preamble.

Officers, or others employed in any Buſineſs relating to the Poſt Office,

who ſhall ſecrete, embezzle, or deſtroy, any Letter or Packet, &c. with which they ſhall be intruſted, or which ſhall come to their Hands or Poſſeſſion, containing any Bank or other Note, for Payment of Money;

Day of November, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſeven, ſecrete, embezzle, or deſtroy, any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, Bag or Mail of Letters, which he, ſhe, or they, ſhall and may be reſpectively intruſte dwith, or which ſhall have come to his, her, or their Hands or Poſſeſſion, containing any Bank Note, Bank Poſt Bill, Bill of Exchange, Exchequer Bill, South Sea or Eaſt India Bond, Dividend Warrant of the Bank, South Sea, Eaſt India, or any other Company, Society, or Corporation, Navy or Victualling or Tranſport Bill, Ordnance Debenture, Seaman's Ticket, State Lottery Ticket or Certificate, Bank Receipt for Payment on any Loan, Note of Aſſignment of Stock in the Funds, Letter of Attorney for receiving Annuities or Dividends, or for ſelling Stock in the Funds, or belonging to any Company, Society, or Corporation, American Provincial Bill of Credit, Goldſmith's or Banker's Letter of Credit or Note for or relating to the Payment of Money, or other Bond or Warrant, Draught, Bill, or Promiſſory Note whatſoever, for the Payment of Money;

or ſhall ſteal, or take thereout, any ſuch Bank or other Note, &c.

or ſhall ſteal and take out of any Letter or Packet that ſhall come to his, her, or their, Hands or Poſſeſſion, any ſuch Bank Note, Bank Poſt Bill, Bill of Exchange, Exchequer Bill, South Sea or Eaſt India Bond, Dividend Warrant of the Bank, South Sea, Eaſt India, or any other Company, Society, or Corporation, Navy or Victualling or Tranſport Bill, Ordnance Debenture, Seaman's Ticket, State Lottery Ticket or Certificate, Bank Receipt for Payment on any Loan, Note of Aſſignment of Stock in the Funds, Letter of Attorney for receiving Annuities or Dividends, or for ſelling Stock in the Funds, or belonging to any Company, Society, or Corporation, American Provincial Bill of Credit, Goldſmith's or Banker's Letter of Credit or Note for or relating to the Payment of Money, or other Bond or Warrant, Draught, Bill, or Promiſſory Note whatſoever, for the Payment of Money; every ſuch Offender or Offenders, being thereof convicted in due Form of Law, ſhall be deemed guilty of Felony, and ſhall ſuffer Death as a Felon without Benefit of Clergy.

being convicted, ſhall ſuffer Death, without Benefit of Clergy.

Perſons who ſhall rob the Mail of any Letters,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of November, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſeven, if any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever ſhall rob any Mail or Mails, in which Letters are ſent or conveyed by the Poſt, of any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, Bag or Mail of Letters; or ſhall ſteal and take from or out of any ſuch Mail or Mails, or from or out of any Bag

or ſhall ſteal Letters from any Mail or Bag,

or

or from any Post House, or Office,

or Bags of Letters, sent or conveyed by the Post, or from or out of any Post Office, or House or Place for the Receipt or Delivery of Letters or Packets sent or to be sent by the Post, any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets; although such Robbery, Stealing, or Taking, shall not appear, or be proved, to be a Taking from the Person, or upon the King's Highway, or to be a Robbery committed in any Dwelling-house, or any Coach-house, Stable, Barn, or any Out-house belonging to a Dwelling-house; and although it should not appear that any Person or Persons were put in fear by such Robbery, Stealing, or Taking; yet such Offender or Offenders, being thereof convicted as aforesaid, shall nevertheless respectively be deemed guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death as a Felon, without Benefit of Clergy.

being convicted, shall suffer Death, without Benefit of Clergy.

Officers, or others, employed in any Business relating to the Post Office, who shall burn or destroy any Letter to be sent by Post, for which they have received the Postage;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Deputy, Clerk, Agent, Letter-carrier, Officer, or other Person whatsoever, employed or hereafter to be employed in any Business relating to the Post Office, shall take and receive into his, her, or their Hands or Possession any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, to be forwarded by the Post, and receive any Sum or Sums of Money therewith for the Postage thereof, shall, after the said First Day of November, One thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, burn or otherwise destroy any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, by him, her, or them, so taken in or received; or if any such Deputy, Clerk, Agent, Letter-carrier, Officer, or other Person whatsoever, so employed, or hereafter to be so employed, shall advance the Rate or Rates of Postage upon any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets, sent by the Post, and shall secrete, and not duly account for, the Money by him, her, or them, received for such advanced Postage; every such Offender or Offenders, being thereof convicted as aforesaid, shall be deemed guilty of Felony.

or who shall advance the Postage on any Post Letter, without duly accounting for the Money; are deemed guilty of Felony.

A Packet Boat to be established between *Whitehaven* and the Port of *Douglas* in the *Isle of Man*, for the Conveyance of Letters.

And whereas it hath been found necessary, for the Convenience and Improvement of Trade and Commerce, and for the more safe and speedy Conveyance of Letters and Packets between Great Britain and the Isle of Man, to establish a Packet-boat between the Port of Whitehaven in the County of Cumberland, and the Port of Douglas in the said Isle of Man; be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Fifth Day of July, One thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty's Postmaster General, and his Deputy and Deputies, by him there-

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thereunto ſufficiently authoriſed, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs, and Succeſſors, to demand,

Rates of Poſtage to be paid thereupon.

have, receive, and take, for the Poſt and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by Packet-boats to or from the Port of Whitehaven aforeſaid, or any other convenient Port in the Kingdom of Great Britain, from or to the Port of Douglas aforeſaid, or any other convenient Port in the ſaid Iſle of Man (over and above all other Rates payable for ſuch Letters or Packets) according to the Rates and Sums hereafter mentioned (the ſame being rated either by the Letter, or by the Ounce) that is to ſay,

The Rates.

For every Single Letter, Two Pence.
For every Double Letter, Four Pence.
For every Treble Letter, Six Pence.
And for every Ounce, Eight Pence.

And ſo in Proportion for every Packet of Deeds, Writs, and other Things.

Convenient Poſt Offices, and Poſt Roads, to be eſtabliſhed within the ſaid Iſland.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of July, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſeven, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſt-maſter General to eſtabliſh Poſt Offices and Poſt Roads within the ſaid Iſle of Man, wherever it ſhall appear to him to be neceſſary and convenient for the Benefit of Trade and Correſpondence ſo to do; and that it ſhall and may be

Inland Port of Letters there, to be charged after the Rate of Poſtage in *England*.

lawful for ſuch Poſt-maſter General, and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto ſufficiently authoriſed, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs, and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive, and take, for the Inland Port or Conveyance of all Letters and Packets ſent or conveyed by the Poſt within the ſaid Iſle, ſuch Rates of Poſtage in proportion to the Number of Miles or Stages ſuch Letters and Packets are carried or conveyed by the Poſt, as now are reſpectively ſettled, eſtabliſhed, and aſcertained, to be paid for the Inland Port or Conveyance of Letters and Packets within that Part of Great Britain called England.

Clauſes, Proviſions, Powers, Privileges, Penalties, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of July, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſeven, all and every the Clauſes, Proviſions, Powers, Privileges, Advantages, Diſabilities, Penalties, and Methods for the Recovery of the ſame, and all other Matters and Things contained in an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign

in Act 9 *Anne.*

of Her late Majeſty Queen Anne, intituled, An Act

for

for eſtabliſhing a General Poſt Office for all Her Majeſty's Dominions, and for ſettling a Weekly Sum out of the Revenues thereof for the Service of the War, and other Her Majeſty's Occaſions, (and not repealed or altered by any ſubſequent Law;) as alſo in an Act made in the Sixth Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King George the Firſt, intituled, An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuſes in the Publick Revenues of Exciſe, Cuſtoms, Stamp Duties, Poſt Office, and Houſe Money, ſo far as the ſaid Act relates to the Poſt Office; as alſo in an Act made in the Twenty ſixth Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for the more effectual preventing the fraudulent Removal of Tobacco by Land or Water, and for the Eaſe of the fair Trader; and for aſcertaining the Rates payable for the Poſtage of certain Letters; and for amending and explaining the Laws relating to the Sale of Spirituous Liquors by Retail; ſo far as the ſaid Act relates to the Poſt Office; as alſo in an Act made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent moſt gracious Majeſty, intituled, An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuſes in relation to the ſending and receiving Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Poſtage; as alſo in an Act made in the Fifth Year of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, An Act to alter certain Rates of Poſtage; and to amend, explain, and enlarge, ſeveral Proviſions in an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Queen *Anne*, and in other Acts relating to the Revenue of the Poſt Office; and alſo in this preſent Act, or in any other Act relating to the Poſt Office, ſhall extend, and be deemed and conſtrued to extend, to the ſaid Iſle of Man, and to all His Majeſty's Subjects within the ſaid Iſle, as fully and effectually in every Reſpect, as if the ſaid Iſle, and His Majeſty's Subjects therein, had been expreſsly included in the ſaid ſeveral Acts, or in any of them.

not repealed or altered by any ſubſequent Law;

and in Act 6 *Geo.* I.

and in Act 26 *Geo.* II.

ſo far as the ſame relate to the Poſt Office;

alſo in Act 4 *Geo.* III.

and Act 5 *Geo.* III.

and this preſent, or other Act relating to the Poſt Office,

extended to the *Iſle of Man.*

And be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all the Monies ariſing by the Rates aforeſaid, except the Monies which ſhall be neceſſary to defray ſuch Expences as ſhall be incurred in the Collection and Management of the ſame, and all other Expences attending the ſaid Office, and the due Execution of the Acts relating thereto, ſhall be appropriated and applied to ſuch and the ſame Uſes to which the preſent Rates of Poſtage are reſpectively now by Law appropriated and made applicable.

Monies ariſing by the Poſtage there, after all Charges deducted,

to be applied as the preſent Rates of Poſtage.

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

Limitation of Actions.

of this Act, the ſame ſhall be commenced within Six Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Action or Suit ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence, 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, that then the Jury ſhall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiff or 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 Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants ſhall and may recover Treble Coſts, and have the like Remedy for the ſame as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in any other Caſes by Law.

General Iſſue.

Treble Coſts.

FINIS.