Anno octavo

Georgii III. Regis.

An Act for taking down the preſent Shire-houſe in the Market-place of the Town of *Hertford*, in the County of *Hertford*; and for building a new One on a more extenſive and commodious Plan in the Market-place of the ſaid Town.

WHEREAS the Shire-houſe of the County of Hertford, ſituate in the Market-place in the Town of Hertford, in the ſaid County, in which the Aſſizes and General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for the ſaid County are holden, and other publick Buſineſs of the ſaid County is tranſacted, is a very ancient Building, and ſo greatly decayed, and is alſo too ſmall, and otherwiſe ſo inconvenient for the tranſacting the publick Buſineſs of the ſaid County, that it is neceſſary that it ſhould be taken down, and that a new Shire-houſe ſhould be built on a larger Plan in the ſaid Market-place for the Uſe of the ſaid County; and for accompliſhing the ſame it is propoſed to purchaſe ſeveral Meſſuages, Sheds, or Shambles, ſtanding in the ſaid Market-place near the ſaid old Shire-houſe: And whereas the Mayor, Alder- Preamble.

men, and Commonalty, of the Borough of Hertford, in the County of Hertford, are the Owners of the said Shire-house (which is also the Town-hall of the said Borough of Hertford) and the Ground and Soil whereon the same standeth; and the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, are willing that the same, together also with such Messuages, Stalls, Sheds, and Shambles, which are under or adjoining to the said Shire-house, and the Ground and Soil whereon the same stand, of which the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, are also the Owners, and also such other Part of the Ground and Soil of them the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, in the said Market-place, as shall be necessary to be used for the Purposes of this Act, shall forthwith become the Property of, and be vested in, the Justices of the Peace for the said County, for the Purposes of this Act, in such Manner as is herein after mentioned, without any Consideration or Acknowledgement for the same, other than and except that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, shall in lieu thereof have the Use of the Shire-house which shall be built in pursuance of this Act, in such Manner as is herein after mentioned and provided: And whereas the said Purposes cannot be effected without the Aid of Parliament; 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, That from and immediately after the passing of this Act, the present Shire-house of the County of Hertford, standing in the Market-place in the Town of Hertford, in the said County (which is also the Town-hall of the Borough of Hertford) and the Ground and Soil whereon the same standeth; and also such Messuages, Stalls, Sheds, and Shambles, which are under or adjoin to the said Shire-house, and the Ground and Soil whereon the same stand, of which the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, are the Owners as aforesaid, and also such other Part of the Ground and Soil of them the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, in the said Market-place, as shall be necessary to be used for the Purposes of this Act, shall become the Property of, and the same are hereby vested in, the Justices of the Peace of and for the said County of Hertford, for the time being, for the Purposes of this Act; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justices of the Peace of and for the said County of Hertford,

The present Shire-house, &c. vested in Justices, and to be taken down;

Hertford, at the General or Quarter Sessions, or any Adjournment thereof, or for the greater Number of such of them who shall be then assembled, to order and direct the said Shire-house, Messuages, Stalls, Sheds, and Shambles, so vested as aforesaid, to be taken down, and to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for taking down the same; and to sell and dispose of the Materials thereof to such Person or Persons as shall be willing to purchase the same, for such Price or Prices as to them the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet, and to apply the Money to arise thereby for the Purposes herein after mentioned; and also to cause a new Shire-house, with proper and necessary Apartments therein, to be built, on a more extensive and commodious Plan, in the said Market-place, for the Use of the said County of Hertford, and the same to be properly fitted up for that Purpose; and to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for the building, fitting up, and completing, such new Shire-house, in such Manner as to them the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet.

and to sell Materials;

and to cause a new Shire house to be built on a larger Plan.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace of the said County of Hertford, assembled at their General or Quarter Sessions, or any Adjournment thereof as aforesaid, or for the greater Number of such of them who shall be so assembled, and they are hereby impowered to treat, contract, and agree, with the Owners or Proprietors of, and Persons interested in, any Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, standing in the Market-place in the said Town of Hertford, near the said present Shire-house, which they the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall adjudge necessary to be pulled down and removed for the Purpose of this Act, for the Purchase thereof, at such Price or Prices as to the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet; and it shall and may be lawful for all Husbands, Guardians, Trustees, Committees, Executors, or Administrators, for or in Behalf of their Cestuique Trusts, whether Infants or Issue unborn, Lunaticks, Ideots, or Femes Covert, and for every other Person and Persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seized or possessed of, or interested in, any such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, to contract for and sell and convey the same to the Justices of the Peace of and for the said County for the time being, for such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be agreed upon;

Justices impowered to purchase Messuages, &c.

and that all such Contracts, Agreements, Bargains, Sales, and Conveyances, shall, without any Fine or Fines, Recovery or Recoveries, be good and valid in Law to all Intents and Purposes, not only to convey all the Estate, Right, Title, and Interest, of the Person and Persons conveying, but also to convey all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Use, Property, Claim, and Demand whatsoever, of their several and respective Cestuique Trusts, whether Infants or Issue unborn, Lunaticks, Ideots, Femes Covert, or other Person or Persons whomsoever, and all claiming or to claim by, from, or under them, or any of them; any Law, Statute, Usage, or any other Matter or Thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding: And that all Persons so contracting, agreeing, and conveying, as aforesaid, are and shall be indemnified for what they shall do by virtue and in pursuance of this Act.

Owners, &c. neglecting to treat,

And be it further enacted, That if any such Person or Persons shall, for the Space of Twenty one Days next after Notice in Writing given to him, her, or them, or left at the respective Place or Places of his, her, or their Abode, or with the Tenant or Tenants in Possession of the said Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, which it will be necessary to pull down and remove as aforesaid, neglect or refuse to treat, or shall not agree with the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, or by reason of Absence shall be prevented from treating, or through Disability by Non-age, Coverture, or other Impediment, cannot treat for themselves, or shall not produce and evince a clear Title to the Premisses they are in Possession of, or to the Interest they claim; then, and in every such Case, the said Justices assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, from time to time, to issue out their Warrant or Warrants under their Hands and Seals, to be directed to the Sheriff of the said County of Hertford, commanding such Sheriff to impanel, summon, and return, a Jury to appear before the Justices of the Peace of the said County, or any Two or more of them, at a Time and Place to be specified in such Warrant or Warrants; and the said Sheriff is hereby required accordingly to impanel, summon, and return, a Jury of Twenty four able and sufficient Men, qualified according to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm to be returned for Trials of Issues joined in his Majesty's Courts at Westminster, to appear before the said Justices, or any Two or more of them, at such Time and Place

Jury to be summoned;

Place as by such Warrant or Warrants shall be directed and appointed, not being less than Ten Days after such Warrant shall be served on the said Sheriff, or more than Twenty one Days after such Service, upon Pain to forfeit on every Default in not making such Return, Ten Pounds, to be levied in the Manner herein after directed; and also to return in Issues upon every Person so impanelled and returned not appearing, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, the Sum of Forty Shillings, to be levied in the Manner herein after directed: And in case a sufficient Number of Jurymen shall not appear, the said Sheriff shall return other honest and indifferent Men of the Standers-by, or that can be speedily procured to attend that Service, to make up the said Jury to the Number of Twelve; and all Parties concerned shall and may have their lawful Challenges against any of the said Jurymen; and the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, are hereby impowered and required, by Warrant or Warrants under their Hands and Seals, from time to time, as Occasion shall require, to summon and call before them all and every such Person and Persons as shall be thought proper or necessary to be examined as a Witness or Witnesses, by the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, or any of the Parties interested, touching the Matters in Question; and the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, shall and may, in case they shall think the same proper, or shall be requested so to do, by any Person or Persons interested, order and authorize the said Jury, or any Six or more of them, to view the Place or Matter, Places or Matters, in Question; which Jury, upon their Oath to be administered by the said Justices, so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, (which Oath, as also the Oaths to such Person or Persons as shall be called upon to give Evidence, the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, are hereby impowered to administer) shall enquire of, assess, and ascertain, what Sum and Sums of Money shall be paid for the Purchase of any such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, to the Owners or Occupiers of, and Persons interested in, any such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, and shall settle and ascertain in what Proportion the Sum or Sums so assessed shall be paid or made to the several Persons respectively interested in the Premisses; and the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or any Two or more of them, shall give

who shall ascertain the Sums to be paid for Purchases.

Verdict of the Jury to be final.

Judgement for such Sum or Sums so to be assessed by such Jury; which Verdict, and the said Judgement thereupon declared or pronounced by the said Justices, or any Two or more of them, and the Value and Recompence so assessed, shall be binding and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes against all and every Party or Parties, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, and all others claiming any Estate, Right, Title, or Interest, in or to the said Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, or any Thing thereunto belonging or appertaining in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or Expectancy, or otherwise, as well Infants, Ideots, Lunaticks, Femes-covert, Tenants in Tail, as others, and their respective Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, and all claiming by, from, or under them, or any of them.

Notice to be given before Inquiry by Jury.

Provided always, That Notice of the Time and Place of making such Inquiry and Assessment, by a Jury as aforesaid, shall be given to or left at the usual or last Place or Places of Abode of the Party or Parties interested, or the Tenant or Tenants, Occupier or Occupiers, of the Premisses respectively, at least Ten Days before such Inquiry or Assessment.

Penalty on Witnesses refusing to give Evidence, &c.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons summoned as aforesaid to give Evidence, shall neglect or refuse to appear at such Time or Times, Place or Places, as shall be appointed in the Warrant or Warrants granted by the said Justices, or any Two or more of them, for that Purpose; or appearing shall refuse to be sworn or examined by, or to give Evidence before, the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid; or if any Person summoned as a Juryman as aforesaid shall after his Appearance refuse to be sworn, or being so sworn refuse to give or not give his Verdict, or in any other Manner wilfully neglect his Duty in the Premisses, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; every Person so offending, having no reasonable Excuse to be allowed by the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding the Sum of Five Pounds, to be levied in the Manner herein after directed.

Verdicts to be kept by the Clerk of the Peace.

And be it further enacted, That the said Verdicts and Judgements shall be set down in Writing under the Hands and Seals of the Justices acting in the Premisses, or any Two or more of them, and shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of Hertford, and be kept among the Records and Writ-

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ings of the Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County; and the same, or true Copies thereof, shall be taken, adjudged, and deemed good and sufficient Evidence and Proof in any Court of Law or Equity whatsoever; and all Persons shall and may have Recourse to the same, and may take Copies thereof upon paying to such Clerk of the Peace a reasonable Sum of Money for writing the same.

Upon Payment or Tender of Money,

And be it further enacted, That upon Payment of the Sum or Sums so agreed or contracted for, or assessed and adjudged for the Purchase of any such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, or legal Tender thereof to the Parties concerned respectively (which Sum or Sums of Money the said Justices assembled at their General or Quarter Sessions as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them so assembled, are hereby authorized to order to be paid out of the Monies to be raised by this Act) or in case any such Parties cannot be met with, or shall refuse to accept the same, then upon Payment of such Sum or Sums into the Hands of the Clerk of the Peace of the said County for the Use of the Parties interested as aforesaid, such of the said Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, for which such Value or Recompence shall have been contracted, agreed or assessed, or adjudged as aforesaid, shall from thenceforth, by virtue of this Act, be vested in the Justices of the Peace of and for the said County of Hertford; and it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices, or the greater Number of them so assembled as aforesaid, to order and direct such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, to be taken down, and to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for the taking down the same; and to sell and dispose of the Materials thereof to such Person or Persons who shall be willing to purchase the same, for such Price or Prices as to them the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet, and to apply the Monies to arise thereby for the Purposes of this Act; and to make use and dispose of the Site or Sites of such Messuages, Sheds, or Shambles, in such Manner as to the said Justices so assembled as aforesaid, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet, for the Purposes of this Act; and this Act shall be sufficient to indemnify as well the said Justices as all other Persons employed or authorized by them against the said Owners, Occupiers, or other Persons interested, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, and against all

Justices may pull down Messuages, &c.

and every other Person and Persons, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

A convenient Place to be provided for the Business of the County till the new Shire-house be built.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That after the present Shire-house shall be taken down, and until the new Shire-house shall be built in pursuance of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justices of the Peace of the said County of Hertford assembled in their General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or the greater Number of them so assembled, and they are hereby required to provide and fit up such convenient Place in the said Town of Hertford for the holding the Assizes and General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the said County, as to the said Justices, or the greater Number of them, shall seem meet; and the Expence of providing and fitting up the same shall be defrayed and paid out of the Monies to be raised by virtue of this Act.

Monies to be raised for the Purposes of this.

And be it further enacted, That in order to raise the Sum of Money which shall be necessary for the Purposes of this Act, all and every the Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments, lying and being in the said County of Hertford (except in the Borough of Saint Alban, and except as herein after is excepted) shall be and are hereby made chargeable and liable to the Payment of so much of the Money which shall be necessary for the Purposes of this Act as is not herein after directed to be raised in the Liberty of Saint Alban, to be raised and paid according to the yearly Value of such Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments, such yearly Value to be ascertained by the Poors Rates of the respective Parishes and Places in which the said Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments are respectively lying or being, in the Manner herein after-mentioned; which said Money so as aforesaid, being Part of the Money which shall be necessary for the Purposes of this Act, is hereby directed to be raised within the Space of Three Years from the Passing of this Act: But it is hereby provided, That the same in the Whole shall not exceed the Sum of Eight Pence in the Pound of such yearly Value; and that no greater Proportion thereof be raised in any One Year than Three Pence in the Pound.

Liberty and Borough of *Saint Alban* to be assessed as well as the County.

And whereas the Liberty of Saint Alban is in the said County of Hertford, and Justices of the Peace are appointed for the said Liberty by a separate Commission of the Peace distinct from the Commission of the Peace for the

the County of Hertford at large, and the said Liberty doth not contribute to pay to the County Rates made for the said County at large; nevertheless the said Liberty will receive a joint Benefit from the said new Shire-house with the rest of the said County of Hertford, and therefore the Lands and Tenements within the said Liberty should be charged and rated towards raising the Money which will be necessary for the Purposes of this Act; be it therefore further enacted, That all and every the Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements, and Hereditaments, lying and being in the said Liberty of Saint Alban (except as herein after is excepted) shall be and are hereby made chargeable and liable to the Payment of the Sum of One thousand two hundred Pounds towards the Money which shall be necessary for the Purposes of this Act, to be raised and paid according to the yearly Value of such Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments, such yearly Value to be ascertained by the Poors Rate of the respective Parishes and Places in which the said Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements, and Hereditaments, are respectively lying or being; and that, notwithstanding any Matter or Thing in this Act contained, the said Sum of Money herein before directed to be raised in the said Liberty of Saint Alban, shall and is hereby directed to be raised in the said Liberty, in such Manner and Proportion as to the Justices of the Peace of the said Liberty in Quarter Session assembled, or the greater Number of them so assembled, shall seem meet, so that the same be paid by the Treasurer of the said Liberty for the time being into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said County of Hertford for the time being, within the Time herein before mentioned for raising and paying the Money herein before directed to be raised and paid for the Purposes of this Act in the rest of the said County of Hertford.

Money to be raised on the Liberty of *Saint Alban*.

And it is hereby provided, That if it shall happen that the Sum herein before directed to be raised in the said Liberty of Saint Alban shall amount to more than One Fifth Part of the Sum that shall or may, for the Purposes of this Act, be raised in the said County of Hertford at large, that then the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Hertford, at any General or Quarter Session assembled, or the greater Number of them so assembled, shall, and they are hereby required to, order and direct the Treasurer of the said County forthwith to repay unto the Treasurer of the said Liberty for the time being, such Sum or Sums of Money as shall so happen

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to be more than such Fifth Part of the Sum that shall or may be raised in the said County at large as aforesaid.

Churchwardens, &c. to collect Monies to be raised for the Purposes of this Act.

And be it further enacted, That for the more easy collecting the Monies which shall become necessary for the Purposes of this Act, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the time being of each and every Parish and Place in the County of Hertford, not being within the said Liberty of Saint Alban or Borough of Saint Alban, shall, and they are hereby required, out of the Monies collected or to be collected for the Relief of the Poor of such Parish or Place, to pay unto the High Constables of the respective Hundreds or Divisions of the said County at large, such respective Sums of Money as the yearly Value of all and every the Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments, in every such Parish or Place respectively (except as herein after is excepted) shall amount unto, after such Rate in the Pound as the Justices assembled for the said County of Hertford in their General or Quarter Sessions, or the greater Number of them so assembled, shall order and direct; such Payments to be made within the Space of Thirty Days after Demand made thereof in Writing on such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any of them, or left at their or any of their Dwelling-house or Houses by the said High Constable or High Constables of the respective Hundreds or Divisions; which Demand the respective High Constables are hereby required to make within Twenty one Days next after Notice to them respectively of such Order of Sessions: And in case such Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or any of them, shall neglect or refuse to pay any of the Sum or Sums of Money hereby made payable by them as aforesaid (after Demand made as aforesaid) the respective High Constables shall, and they are hereby impowered to, levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of such Churchwardens and Overseers so refusing or neglecting, in such Manner as is directed by the Act of Parliament made in the Twelfth Year of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for the more easy assessing, collecting, and levying, of County Rates, is mentioned with respect to the Nonpayment of the Sums of Money thereby assessed and made payable by Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor: And the High Constables of the Liberty of Saint Alban shall and may, and they are hereby impowered and required, in case the Justices of the Peace for the said Liberty of Saint Alban at any General Quarter Session assembled, or the greater

Number of them so assembled, shall so direct, to have and use such and the same Powers and Authorities for raising and levying the Sum of Money herein before directed to be raised in the said Liberty of Saint Alban, as are herein before directed to be used and put in Force for raising and levying the Money herein before directed to be raised in the said County of Hertford at large; and the respective High Constables of the said County of Hertford at large are hereby required to pay over the said Monies which shall be so received by them, within Fourteen Days after the Receipt of the same, unto the Treasurer of the County of Hertford for the time being.

Monies to be raised according to the Poors Rate.

And, to the Intent that the yearly Value of all and every the Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to be charged towards the Payment of the Monies to be raised for the Purposes and by virtue of this Act, may be ascertained, it is hereby further enacted, That the yearly Value of the said Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments, shall, for the Purposes of this Act, be deemed and taken to be the same as they are mentioned to be in the Rates made for the Relief of the Poor of the respective Parishes and Places where the said Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements and Hereditaments are respectively lying; and that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor respectively of each and every Parish and Place in the County of Hertford, as well within the Liberty of Saint Alban as without, shall, upon Demand, produce and shew to the said respective High Constables, and also to One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County, and of the said Liberty of Saint Alban, who shall require the same, such respective Poors Rate; and in case of Neglect or Refusal so to do, such Churchwardens and Overseers shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Forty Pounds; to be levied in the same Manner as the Monies made payable by this Act from Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, in case of Nonpayment of the same, are to be levied: And in case any of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish or Place within the said County, as well within the said Liberty of Saint Alban as without, with Intent to lessen the Monies intended to be raised by virtue of this Act, shall, in any of the Poors Rates, fraudulently value their or any other Tenements at a lesser Value than they have been usually valued at in the respective Poors Rates; then, and in such Case, every Churchwarden and Overseer, so offend-

ing, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds; to be recovered in the Manner herein after directed.

Receipt to be given.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the several Parishes and Places in the said County of Hertford, shall, for the Monies which shall be raised and collected for the Purposes and in pursuance of this Act, give Receipts to the respective Tenants and Occupiers of the said Messuages, Lands, Tythes Appropriate and Impropriate, Tenements, and Hereditaments, paying the same, who, upon producing such Receipts, shall be intitled to deduct such Monies as have been so paid by them, and specified in such Receipts, out of the Rent which shall become due to their respective Landlords.

Exemption of the Clergy.

Provided always, That no Parson, Vicar, or Curate, for or in respect of his Parsonage or Vicarage House, or of his Tythes or Glebe Lands, not being Impropriate, or his or their Tenant or Tenants thereof, shall be liable to contribute or pay any Sum or Sums of Money for the Purposes of this Act, but the same are hereby excepted thereout; and that in case any such Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or their respective Tenant or Tenants, shall, for or in respect of any such Parsonage or Vicarage House, Tythes, or Glebe Lands, not being Impropriate, out of the gross Sum which shall have been paid by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to the High Constable as aforesaid, happen to have paid any Sum or Sums of Money for the Purposes of this Act; that then, and as often as such Case shall happen, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor shall, out of the succeeding Poors Rate, repay such last mentioned Sum or Sums of Money to such Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or such their respective Tenant or Tenants, who shall have happened so to have paid the same; or shall permit and suffer every such Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or their respective Tenant or Tenants, to deduct such Sum and Sums of Money out of such last mentioned Poors Rate.

Justices to ascertain how much shall be raised in any One Year.

And, in order to ascertain what Proportion of the said Rates shall be raised in any One Year, be it further enacted, That the Justices of the Peace for the County of Hertford, or the greater Number of them, in their General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace assembled, shall have Power to ascertain and determine the same by Order of Sessions, which shall be binding only on the Churchwardens and Overseers, Parishes and Places, in the County of Hertford, at large.

And be it further enacted, That the Monies to be received by Sale of the Materials of the said present Shire-house, and all other Monies to be raised and received by virtue of this Act, shall in the First Place be applied in discharging and paying all the Expences of obtaining this Act, and afterwards in defraying the Expences of the purchasing of the said Messuages, Stalls, Sheds, or Shambles, and of building, finishing, and fitting up, the said Shire-house, so to be built as aforesaid, and in defraying the other necessary Expences attending the Execution of this Act, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever. Application of Money.

And be it further enacted, That when the said new Shire-house shall be built, finished, and fitted up, and all Monies due upon account thereof shall be fully paid and satisfied, and all other Matters and Things by this Act directed or authorized to be done and performed by the said Justices, shall be completed; the said Justices shall cause all Accounts, Deeds, and Writings, relating to the executing of this Act, to be deposited by the Clerk of the Peace of the said County, to be kept among the Records of the said County. Accounts to be kept among the Records of the County.

And be it further enacted, That the said Shire-house, with the Apartments therein, when built in pursuance of this Act, and every Matter and Thing appertaining thereto, shall from thenceforth be by virtue of this Act vested in the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Hertford for the time being, for the Use of the said County. New Shire-house vested in the Justices.

Provided always, That notwithstanding any thing herein before contained, the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Hertford shall, at their First General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County, after the said new Shire-house shall be erected, set apart and appropriate One fit and proper Room in the said new Shire-house to and for the sole and separate Use of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, of the said Borough of Hertford, and their Successors, as and for their Council Chamber, who from thenceforth shall freely have the sole Use thereof. A Room to be set apart for the Corporation of *Hertford.*

Provided also, That at such Times as the said new Shire-house shall not be used for the Business of the said County, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, of the said Borough of Hertford, and their Successors, to have and enjoy the free Use of One of the Courts of the said new Shire-house, for the Purpose of holding the Courts of the said Borough, and transacting all other publick Busi- Quarter Sessions, &c. to be held in the new Shire-house.

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ness of the said Borough, in such and the same Manner as the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, now do, or at any Time heretofore have usually done in the said present Shire house or Town-hall; and also for the Lord of the Manor of Hertford, otherwise called The Manor of Hertford Castle, or his Steward of the said Manor for the time being, from time to time, to hold the Court Leet, View of Frank-pledge, and Court Baron of and for the said Manor, in the said new Shire-house, in such and the same Manner as the said Courts have usually been, or might or may be held in the said present Shire-house.

Lord of the Manor to hold his Courts in the new Shire-house.

Persons doing Damage, to be prosecuted.

And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall wilfully and maliciously break, pull down, damage, or destroy, the said Shire-house so to be erected, or any Part thereof, such Person or Persons, being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony; and the Court, before whom such Person or Persons shall be tried, shall have full Power and Authority either to order such Person or Persons to be transported for Seven Years to such Place, and in such Manner, as other Felons are directed to be transported by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, or to suffer such corporal Punishment by whipping or otherwise, or to be punished by Imprisonment, as to the said Court, before whom such Person or Persons shall be tried, shall seem meet; and that the Justices of the Peace for the said County, in Quarter Sessions assembled, are hereby authorized, from time to time, to order any such Offender or Offenders as aforesaid to be prosecuted by Indictment or Indictments, and to direct the Expences of such Prosecutions to be paid by the Treasurer of the said County of Hertford out of the publick Money of and belonging to the said County.

An Arcade to be for the Market.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in erecting the said new Shire-house there shall be an Arcade or Cloister under the same, or some Part thereof, Sixty six Feet long, and Twenty five Feet wide, in which, and also in all other the Ground under the said Shire-house which shall be thought proper to be uncovered, the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the said Borough of Hertford, shall and may freely, from time to time, hold and keep their Markets and Fairs, and have, receive, and take, their Tolls of Corn and Grain, and all other their Tolls whatsoever, and also the Benefit of all Stallage which shall be used in the said Arcade or Cloister, to and for their own Use and Benefit, in such Manner as they the said Mayor, Aldermen,

men, and Commonalty, have hitherto usually done under the said present Shire-house or Town-hall.

For keeping the Shire-house in Repair.

And be it further enacted, That when the said new Shire-house shall be built, finished, and fitted up, such Part thereof as shall be used for the said County shall be looked after and taken Care of by such Person or Persons as the Justices of the Peace for the said County, in Quarter Sessions assembled as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, appoint for that Purpose, at the Expence and Charge of the said County of Hertford; and such new Shire-house shall for ever afterwards be supported, amended, and kept in Repair, in such Manner, and by such Person and Persons to be employed for that Purpose, as the said Justices of the Peace for the said County, so assembled as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, as Occasion shall require, order or direct, at the Expence and Charge of the said County of Hertford, and of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, of the said Borough of Hertford respectively, to be paid in the following Proportions; that is to say, Two Third Parts of such Expences and Charges to be from time to time paid by the said County of Hertford, and the other Third Part thereof by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty; and such Proportion of the Charges and Expences, so to be paid by the said County of Hertford, shall, from time to time, be raised in the same Manner as the Expences for the Repairs of the Gaol, Houses of Correction, or any other publick Buildings of the said County, are to be raised by virtue of any Act of Parliament now made, or hereafter to be made, for such Purpose: And such Proportion of the said Charges and Expences, so to be paid by the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty, shall and may, from time to time, be recovered by Action of Debt, to be brought in the Name of the Treasurer of the said County for the time being, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, against the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty.

Penalties and Forfeitures how to be recovered and applied.

And be it further enacted, That all pecuniary Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures, hereby inflicted or authorized to be imposed, shall be recovered by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattles, by a Warrant or Warrants under the Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, of any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County of Hertford: And in case sufficient Distress shall not be found, it shall and may be lawful for any such Justice or Justices to commit such Offender or Offenders to the Common Gaol or House of

Correction of the said County or Liberty of Saint Alban, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Time not exceeding Three Months, or until the said Fines, Penalties, or Forfeitures, shall be paid; and that all such Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures, shall be paid into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said County, and be applied for the Purposes of this Act.

Limitation of Actions. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, such Action or Suit shall be brought and commenced within Six Calendar Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and all such Actions and Suits shall be laid and brought in the said County of Hertford, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in

General Issue. such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuit, or discontinue such Action or Suit, or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover

Treble Costs, Treble Costs; and have such Remedy for such Costs as any other Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs in any other Cases by Law.

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

FINIS.