ANNO QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XXXIX.

An Act for the more effectually preventing the Forgery of Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills. [21ſt *May* 1801.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Forgery of Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills, hath of late very much increaſed in this Kingdom; and, as well for the Prevention thereof, as alſo to facilitate the Detection of the ſame, the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* have procured to be made, for the Purpoſe of being uſed in the future Iſſue of Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills, a new Paper of a different Manufacture from that formerly uſed either by the ſaid Governor and Company, or any other Perſon or Perſons in this Kingdom, in the Iſſue of Promiſſory Notes or Bills of Exchange; in which new Paper, inſtead of the Bar Lines being ſtraight and parallel to each other, as in the Paper heretofore uſed, the ſame are curved or waiving, and the laying Wire Lines are alſo formed in a waived or curved Shape, and the numerical Amount or Sum of each Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bill, expreſſed in a Word or Words, in Roman Letters, is made to appear viſible in the Subſtance of the Paper: And whereas it is expedient, for the better Prevention of the Forgery of Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills, that the ſaid Governor and Company ſhould have the excluſive Privilege and Authority of uſing, in the Iſſue

of their Notes and Bills, the Paper herein-before deſcribed: 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, from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of *June* One thouſand eight hundred and one, if any Perſon or Perſons (other than the Officers, Workmen, Servants, or Agents for the Time being, of the ſaid Governor and Company, to be authorized and appointed for that Purpoſe by the ſaid Governor and Company, and for the Uſe of the ſaid Governor and Company only) ſhall make or uſe, or cauſe or procure to be made or uſed, or knowingly aid or aſſiſt in the making or uſing, or (without being authorized or appointed as aforeſaid) ſhall knowingly have in his, her, or their Cuſtody or Poſſeſſion (without lawful Excuſe, the Proof whereof ſhall lie upon the Perſon accuſed) any Frame, Mould, or Inſtrument, for the making of Paper with curved or waiving Bar Lines, or with the laying Wire Lines thereof in a waiving or curved Shape, or with any Number, Sum, or Amount, expreſſed in a Word or Words, in Roman Letters, viſible in the Subſtance of ſuch Paper; or ſhall manufacture, make, uſe, vend, expoſe to Sale, publiſh or diſpoſe of, or cauſe or procure to be manufactured, made, uſed, vended, expoſed to Sale, publiſhed, or diſpoſed of, or aid or aſſiſt in the manufacturing, making, uſing, vending, expoſing to Sale, publiſhing or diſpoſing of, or (without being authorized or appointed as aforeſaid), ſhall knowingly have in his, her, or their Cuſtody or Poſſeſſion, any Paper whatſoever with curved or waiving Bar Lines, or with the laying Wire Lines thereof in a waiving or curved Shape, or having any Number, Sum, or Amount, expreſſed in a Word or Words, in Roman Letters, appearing viſible in the Subſtance of ſuch Paper; or if any Perſon or Perſons (except as before excepted) after the ſaid Twenty-fourth Day of *June* One thouſand eight hundred and one, ſhall, by any Art, Myſtery, or Contrivance, cauſe or procure the numerical Sum or Amount of any Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, or Bank Poſt Bill, Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, in a Word or Words to appear viſible in the Subſtance of the Paper whereon the ſame ſhall be written or printed; or ſhall knowingly aid or aſſiſt in cauſing the numerical Sum or Amount of any Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, or Bank Poſt Bill, Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, in a Word or Words in Roman Letters, to appear viſible in the Subſtance of the Paper whereon the ſame ſhall be written or printed, every Perſon or Perſons ſo offending in any of the Caſes aforeſaid, and being convicted thereof according to Law, ſhall be adjudged a Felon, and ſhall be tranſported for the Term of Fourteen Years.

After *June* 24, 1801, no Perſon, unleſs authorized by the Bank of *England*, ſhall make or uſe, or have in his Cuſtody any Frame or Inſtrument for making Paper of the Kind herein deſcribed with curved Bar Lines and Sums in Words in the Subſtance, or make, uſe, or publiſh, &c. ſuch Paper, or ſhall procure the Amount of any Bank Note, &c. to appear in the Subſtance of the Paper whereon the ſame ſhall be written or printed, &c. on Pain of being adjudged a Felon, and tranſported for 14 Years.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall not extend, or be conſtrued to extend to reſtrain or render illegal the Negociation, Circulation, or reiſſuing of any Bill or Bills of Exchange, Promiſſory Note or Promiſſory Notes, which have already lawfully been iſſued, negociated, or circulated, or which ſhall or may be now lawfully re-iſſued, negociated, or circulated, before the Firſt Day of *November* One thouſand eight hundred and one, notwithſtanding the ſame ſhall be written or printed upon Paper, which by this Act is prohibited from being manufactured, made, uſed, vended, expoſed to Sale, publiſhed,

Act not to reſtrain the Negociation, &c. of Bills of Exchange, &c. which may be now lawfully iſſued before *November* 1, 1801, although written on Paper reſtricted to the Uſe of the Bank:

publiſhed, or diſpoſed of, except by the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Nor to reſtrain any Perſon from iſſuing Bills or Notes having the Amount expreſſed in Guineas or Pounds Sterling appearing in the Subſtance of the Paper;

III. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to reſtrain any Perſon or Perſons from iſſuing or negociating any Bill or Bills of Exchange, Promiſſory Note or Promiſſory Notes, having the Sum or Amount thereof expreſſed in Guineas, or in a Numerical Figure or Figures denominating the Sum or Amount thereof in Pounds Sterling, appearing viſible in the Subſtance of the Paper upon which the ſame ſhall be written or printed, any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Nor to reſtrain any Perſon from making or uſing, *etc.* Paper with Devices in the Nature of Water Marks, ſo as they do not reſemble the Water Marks uſed by the Bank.

IV. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall reſtrain or prevent any Perſon or Perſons from making, uſing, vending, expoſing to Sale, publiſhing, or diſpoſing of any Paper, having waiving or curved Lines, or any other Devices in the Nature of Water Marks, viſible in the Subſtance of the Paper, not being Bar Lines, or laying Wire Lines, provided the ſame are not contrived in ſuch Manner as to form the Ground Work or Texture of the Paper, or to imitate or reſemble the waiving or curved laying Wire Lines, or Bar Lines of the ſaid new Paper of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, or to imitate or reſemble the Water Marks uſed by the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, in the Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills, iſſued by the ſaid Governor and Company, any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Perſons knowingly receiving or having in their Poſſeſſion any forged Bank Note, *etc.* ſhall, on Conviction, be adjudged Felons and be tranſported for 14 Years.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, from and after the paſſing of this Act, purchaſe or receive from any other Perſon or Perſons, any forged or counterfeited Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, Bank Poſt Bill or Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, knowing the ſame to be forged or counterfeited; or ſhall knowingly or wittingly have in his, her, or their Poſſeſſion or Cuſtody, or in his, her, or their Dwelling Houſe, Out-Houſe, Lodgings, or Apartments, any forged or counterfeited Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, Bank Poſt Bill, or Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, knowing the ſame to be forged or counterfeited, (without lawful Excuſe, the Proof whereof ſhall lie upon the Perſon accuſed), every Perſon or Perſons ſo offending, and being thereof convicted according to Law, ſhall be adjudged a Felon, and ſhall be tranſported for the Term of Fourteen Years.

Perſons engraving, *etc.* any Bank Note, *etc.* purporting to be of the Bank of *England*, or uſing any Plate ſo engraved, or any Device

VI. And whereas the Laws now in Force do not inflict a ſufficient Puniſhment upon Offenders concerned in engraving Plates and printing Blank Forms for Bank Notes, Bank Bills of Exchange, and Bank Poſt Bills, for the Purpoſe of being made uſe of in perpetrating the Crime of Forgery: For Remedy whereof, be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons, from and after the paſſing of this Act, ſhall engrave, cut, etch, ſcrape, or by any other Means or Device make, or ſhall cauſe or procure to be

for making or printing any ſuch Bank Note, *etc.* without the Authority of the Bank, or knowingly have in their Cuſtody ſuch Plate or Device, or utter ſuch Bank Notes, *etc.* the Offenders ſhall be adjudged Felons, and be tranſported for Seven Years.

be engraved, cut, etched, ſcraped, or by any other Means or Device made, or ſhall knowingly aid or aſſiſt in the engraving, cutting, etching, ſcraping, or by any other Means or Device making, in or upon any Plate of Copper, Braſs, Steel, Pewter, or of any other Metal or Mixture of Metals, or upon any Wood, or any other Materials, or any Plate whatſoever, any Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, Bank Poſt Bill, or Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, or Part of a Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, or Bank Poſt Bill, purporting to be the Note or Bill of Exchange or Bank Poſt Bill, or Blank Bank Note or Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, or Part of the Note or Bill of Exchange or Bank Poſt Bill, of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, without an Authority in Writing for that Purpoſe from the ſaid Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, or ſhall uſe any ſuch Plate ſo engraved, cut, etched, ſcraped, or by any other Means or Device make, or ſhall uſe any other Inſtrument or Device for the making or printing any ſuch Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, or Bank Poſt Bill, or Blank Bank Note or Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, or Part of a Bank Note or Bank Bill of Exchange, or Bank Poſt Bill, without ſuch Authority in Writing as aforeſaid; or if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, after the paſſing of this Act, without ſuch Authority as aforeſaid, knowingly have in his, her, or their Cuſtody any ſuch Plate, Inſtrument, or Device, or ſhall without ſuch Authority as aforeſaid, knowingly and wilfully utter, publiſh, diſpoſe of, or put away, any ſuch Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange, Bank Poſt Bill, Blank Bank Note, Blank Bank Bill of Exchange, or Blank Bank Poſt Bill, or Part of ſuch Bank Note, Bank Bill of Exchange or Bank Poſt Bill, every Perſon ſo offending in any of the Caſes aforeſaid, and being convicted thereof according to Law, ſhall be adjudged a Felon, and ſhall be tranſported for the Term of Seven Years.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1801.