

ANNO QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. VII.

An Act for repealing the Rates and Duties of Poſtage in *Great Britain*, and granting other Rates and Duties in lieu thereof, and on Letters conveyed to or from any Part of the United Kingdom from or to any Place out of the ſaid Kingdom, and by Packet Boats from or to the Ports of *Holyhead* and *Milford Haven*. [24th *March* 1801.]

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in Parliament aſſembled, being deſirous of raiſing the neceſſary Supplies to defray Your Majeſty's Publick Expences, and of making a permanent Addition to the Publick Revenue; and thinking it expedient that the Rates of Poſtage eſtabliſhed by an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majeſty Queen *Anne*, and by Four ſeveral Acts of the Fifth, Twenty-fourth, Thirty-fourth, and Thirty-ſeventh Years of Your Majeſty's Reign, ſhould be repealed, and that other Rates of Poſtage ſhould be granted; have therefore freely and voluntarily reſolved to give and grant unto Your Majeſty, the Rates and Duties herein-after mentioned; and do therefore moſt humbly beſeech 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 Preamble.

in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That the ſeveral Rates of Poſtage eſtabliſhed within *Great Britain* by an Act, made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majeſty Queen *Anne*, intituled, *An Act 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 by another Act, made in the Fifth Year of the Reign 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 by another Act, made in the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for granting to His Majeſty certain additional Rates of Poſtage for Conveyance of Letters and Packets by the Poſt within the Kingdom of* Great Britain; *for preventing Frauds in the Revenue, carried on by the Conveyance of certain Goods in Letters and Packets; and for further preventing Frauds and Abuſes in relation to the ſending and receiving of Letters and Packets free from Poſtage*; and by another Act, made in the Thirty-ſeventh Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for altering certain Rates of Poſtage for Conveyance of Letters in* England *and* Scotland *reſpectively, and of Packets to and from* Great Britain *from and to* Portugal *and the* Britiſh *Colonies in* America *reſpectively*; *and for ſetting apart, at the Receipt of the* Exchequer *for a certain Period, out of the Revenues of the Poſt Office, the annual Sum of Forty thouſand Pounds, towards defraying the encreaſed Charge occaſioned by any Loan raiſed or Stock created, by any Act or Acts paſſed in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty*; and alſo the Rate or Sum of One Penny eſtabliſhed for the Conveyance of Letters and Packets by the Carriage called *The Penny Poſt* from any Place to any other Place, being reſpectively within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, and of Letters put into the Penny Poſt Office to be forwarded by the General Poſt, by an Act made in the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for regulating the Portage and Conveyance of Letters by the Carriage called* The Penny Poſt, ſhall, from and after the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, ceaſe and determine, ſave and except in all Caſes relating to the demanding, recovering, receiving, paying, or accounting for any Arrears thereof reſpectively, which may, on the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, remain unpaid, or any Fine, Penalty, or Forfeiture reſpecting the ſame, which ſhall have been incurred at any Time before the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one.

The Rates of Poſtage eſtabliſhed by 9 *Anne*, Cap. 10.

5 *Geo.* III. Cap. 25.

24 *Geo.* III *Seſſ.* 2. Cap. 37.

37 *Geo.* III. Cap. 18.;

and the Rates for conveying Letters by the Penny Poſt, eſtabliſhed by 34 *Geo.* III. Cap. 17, ſhall ceaſe from *April* 5, 1801.

II. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, it ſhall be lawful for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter-General, and his Deputy and Deputies by him thereunto ſufficiently authorized, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive, and take, for the Port and Conveyance of all Letters and Packets which he ſhall convey, carry, or ſend Poſt within *Great Britain*, according to the ſeveral Rates and Sums herein-after mentioned, the ſame being rated by the Letter, or by the Ounce; (that is to ſay),

From *April* 5, 1801, the following Rates to be paid.

For

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the General Poſt, not exceeding Fifteen meaſured Miles within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Three-pence; for every double Letter Sixpence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, Nine-pence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling; and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce: Rates by the General Poſt.

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above Fifteen meaſured Miles, and not exceeding Thirty Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Four-pence; for every double Letter Eight-pence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Four-pence; and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above Thirty meaſured Miles, and not exceeding Fifty Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Five-pence; for every double Letter Ten-pence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Three-pence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Eight-pence; and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above Fifty meaſured Miles, and not exceeding Eighty Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Sixpence; for every double Letter One Shilling; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Sixpence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings and Sixpence; and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above Eighty meaſured Miles, and not exceeding One hundred and twenty Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Seven-pence; for every double Letter One Shilling and Two-pence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Nine-pence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings and Four-pence, and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above One hundred and twenty meaſured Miles, and not exceeding One hundred and ſeventy Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Eight-pence; for every double Letter One Shilling and Four-pence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings and Eight-pence; and ſo in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Poſt above One hundred and ſeventy meaſured Miles, and not exceeding Two hundred and thirty Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every ſingle Letter Nine-pence; for every double Letter One Shilling and Sixpence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings

and Three-pence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Three Shillings; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Post above Two hundred and thirty measured Miles, and not exceeding Three hundred Miles, within *Great Britain*, for every single Letter Ten-pence; for every double Letter One Shilling and Eight-pence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, Two Shillings and Sixpence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Three Shillings and Four-pence; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of every single Letter by the Post, for every Distance of One hundred measured Miles above Three hundred Miles which such Letter shall be so carried or conveyed within *Great Britain*, a further Sum of One Penny; for every double Letter, a like further Sum of Two-pence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, a like further Sum of Three-pence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, a like further Sum of Four-pence; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

And where such Distance above Three hundred measured Miles shall not amount to One hundred Miles, the like further Sum for every single Letter One Penny; for every double Letter, the like further Sum of Two-pence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, the like further Sum of Three-pence; for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, the like further Sum of Four-pence; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

And where the Distance above Three hundred measured Miles shall exceed One hundred Miles, and so progressively for any like Excess of Distance of One hundred Miles, the like further Sum for every single Letter One Penny; for every double Letter, the like further Sum of Two-pence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, the like further Sum of Three-pence; for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, the like further Sum of Four-pence; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce:

For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Post to or from any Part of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, from or to any Places out of the said Kingdom not within His Majesty's Dominions, in Addition to all other Rates now payable, for every single Letter Four-pence; for every double Letter Eight-pence; for every treble Letter or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, One Shilling and Four-pence; and so in Proportion for every other Letter or Packet of greater Weight than an Ounce.

Rates by the Penny Post.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty's Postmaster-General, and his Deputy and Deputies, Officer and Officers, to demand, have, receive, and take for the Conveyance of every Letter originally sent by the Post heretofore known by the Name of *The Penny Post*, (and not first passing by the General Post), the Postage whereof

ſhall not be paid on putting the ſame into the Office of the ſaid Poſt, the ſeveral Rates or Sums of Money herein-after mentioned; (that is to ſay), for the Conveyance of every Letter ſent by the ſaid Poſt from any Place within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and the reſpective Suburbs thereof, to any other Place within the ſame Cities and Borough and the Suburbs thereof, the Sum of Two-pence; for the Conveyance of every Letter put into ſuch laſt-mentioned Poſt Office to be forwarded by the General Poſt, the Sum of Two-pence.

Merchants Accounts, Bills of Exchange, &c. ſhall be rated as Letters.

IV. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, all Merchants Accounts, Bills of Exchange, Invoices, and Bills of Lading whatever, ſhall be rated, taxed, and paid for, as ſo many ſeveral Letters, or by the Ounce, according to the reſpective Rates by this Act made payable on Letters and Packets conveyed by the General Poſt.

The Poſtmaſter General may undertake the Conveyance of Letters to and from Places not being Poſt Towns, for ſuch Sums for extra Service as may be agreed upon;

V. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter-General, in his Diſcretion, to undertake, at the Expence of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, the Conveyance and Delivery of Letters directed to Perſons abiding in Towns, Villages, and Places (not being Poſt Towns, from the reſpective Poſt Towns to which ſuch Letters ſhall be carried by the Poſt in the uſual Manner; and alſo the Collection and Conveyance of Letters in and from ſuch Towns, Villages, and Places, in order to be ſent by the Poſt; and to take ſuch Sum and Sums of Money for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, for ſuch reſpective extra Service to be performed, as ſhall and may from Time to Time be mutually agreed upon by and between the Poſtmaſter-General and the Inhabitants reſpectively,

but the Inhabitants of ſuch Places may act as heretofore.

VI. Provided always nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to hinder or prevent the Inhabitants of any ſuch Towns, Villages, and Places reſpectively, from carrying or recarrying, or employing any Meſſenger, Servant, or other Perſon to carry or recarry any Letters or Packets, to or from the Poſt Town in ſuch Manner as they have heretofore been accuſtomed and are by Law authorized; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithſtanding.

Monies ariſing from extra Services to be applied as the Rates.

VII. And be it further enacted, That the Monies to ariſe and be received for ſuch extra Services as aforeſaid ſhall, after paying the Expences incurred, be applied in ſuch Manner as the preſent Rates of Poſtage are by Law applicable.

The Poſtmaſter General may agree with any Perſon for indemnifying His Majeſty againſt the Expences which may be incurred beyond the Rates by extending the Conveyance of Letters.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter-General, in his Diſcretion, to enter into any Agreement or Agreements with, or to take Security from, any Perſon or Perſons applying to him for that Purpoſe, for indemnifying His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, in Whole or in Part, and for ſuch Time as the Poſtmaſter-General may think neceſſary, againſt the Expences which ſhall or may be incurred beyond the Rates of Poſtage, by extending the Conveyance of Letters by Poſt to or from any Places where ſuch Conveyance ſhall be extended at the Requeſt of ſuch Perſon or Perſons, and it ſhall appear

doubtful to the ſaid Poſt Maſter whether by extending the ſaid Conveyance an additional Expence to the Revenue may not be incurred.

Rates of Packet Poſtage from or to *Holyhead* or *Milford Haven*, to or from any Ports in *Ireland*.

IX. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, it ſhall be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter-General, and his Deputy and Deputies, by him thereunto ſufficiently authorized, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive, and take for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets, that ſhall be carried or conveyed by Packet Boats from or to the Ports of *Holyhead* or *Milford Haven*, to or from any Ports in *Ireland*, over and above all the Rates payable for ſuch Letters or Packets, a Packet Poſtage, according to the Rates or Sums herein-after mentioned, that is to ſay, for every ſingle Letter Two-pence; for every double Letter Four-pence; for every treble Letter, or other Letter leſs than an Ounce in Weight, Sixpence; and for every Ounce in Weight, and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight, Eight-pence; and ſo in Proportion for every Letter or Packet exceeding an Ounce in Weight.

Act not to alter the Rates of Poſtage upon ſingle Letters ſent by or to Seamen, *&c.* made payable by 35 *Geo.* III. Cap. 53.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall increaſe or alter, or be conſtrued to increaſe or alter, the Amount or Manner of charging the Rates of Poſtage upon ſingle Letters to be ſent by the Poſt, by or to Seamen or Privates employed in His Majeſty's Navy, Army, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery, or Marines, upon their own private Concerns only, whilſt ſuch Seamen and Privates ſhall be employed in the Publick Service as aforeſaid, made payable by an Act paſſed in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for further regulating the ſending and receiving Letters free from the Duty of Poſtage; for allowing Non-commiſſioned Officers, Seamen, and Private Men, in the Navy and Army, whilſt on Service, to ſend and receive Letters at a low Rate of Poſtage; and for permitting Patterns and Samples of Goods to be tranſmitted by the Poſt at an eaſier Rate than is now allowed by Law*; any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Nor the Manner of charging for Patterns of Cloth, *&c.* under that Act.

XI. Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall increaſe or alter, or be conſtrued to increaſe or alter, the Amount or Manner of charging the Rate of Poſtage upon Letters, Packets, or Covers, containing Patterns of Cloth, Silk, Stuff, or other Goods, or Samples of other Sort of Things, not exceeding One Ounce in Weight, made payable by the ſaid laſt-mentioned Act, paſſed in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty; any Thing herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Powers of Acts relating to the Poſt Office, not repealed or altered, to extend to this Act.

XII. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, 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 in force at the Time of paſſing this Act, and contained in the ſaid Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her ſaid late Majeſty Queen *Anne*, or in any other of the before mentioned Acts of Parliament, or in any other Act or Acts of Parliament, ſo far as the ſame relate to the Poſt Office, (and not repealed or altered by this Act), ſhall continue in force, and ſhall be applied and extended, and ſhall be conſtrued to apply and

and extend, to this preſent Act, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if the ſame had been particularly repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this preſent Act.

Rates to be paid to the Receiver-General of the Poſt Office, who ſhall pay the Money into the Exchequer, to be carried to the Conſolidated Fund.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the ſeveral Rates and Duties herein-before granted, together with ſuch other Rates and Duties of the Revenue of the Poſt Office as ſhall be by Law payable and received after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and one, ſhall be paid from Time to Time into the Hands of the Receiver-General for the Time being of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, who ſhall pay the ſame (the neceſſary Charges for collecting, paying, and accounting for the ſame being firſt deducted) into the Receipt of His Majeſty's Exchequer on ſuch Days and Times, and in ſuch Manner, as the Rates and Duties hereby repealed were by any Law in force at and immediately before the paſſing of this Act directed to be paid, and the ſaid Money ſo to be paid into the ſaid Receipt as aforeſaid ſhall be carried to and made Part of the Conſolidated Fund.

Application of the Revenue of the Poſt Office after *April* 5, 1801.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That out of the Monies ariſing by the ſaid Rates and Duties hereby impoſed, and ſuch other Rates and Duties of the Revenue of the Poſt Office as ſhall be by Law payable after the ſaid Fifth Day of *April*, after ſetting apart quarterly the ſeveral Sums of One hundred and two thouſand ſix hundred and thirty-nine Pounds, and of Ten thouſand Pounds, in the Manner and for the Purpoſes directed by the ſaid Act paſſed in the Thirty-ſeventh Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, the further Sum of Forty-nine thouſand ſix hundred and two Pounds, being One-Fourth Part of the annual average Produce for Three Years, ending on the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred, of the Remainder of the Rates and Duties granted by the ſaid laſt-mentioned Act, and directed thereby to be ſet apart, or ſo much thereof as ſhall be ſufficient, ſhall, according to the ſaid laſt-mentioned Act, be ſet apart as an Addition made to the Publick Revenue for the Purpoſes therein mentioned; and after ſetting apart the ſeveral Sums above-mentioned, or ſo much as ſhall be ſufficient, the Remainder of the ſaid Revenue ſhall, during the Period of Ten Years after the paſſing of this Act, be entered in the Books in the Receipt of His Majeſty's Exchequer, diſtinctly and apart from all other Branches of the Publick Revenue; and that the ſaid Remainder of the ſaid Rates to be ſet apart, or ſo much thereof as ſhall be ſufficient, ſhall be deemed an Addition made to the Revenue, for the Purpoſe of defraying the encreaſed Charge occaſioned by any Loan made, or Stock created or to be created, for the Service of *Great Britain*, by virtue of any Act or Acts paſſed or to be paſſed in this Seſſion of Parliament; and that there ſhall be provided and kept in the Office of the Auditor of the ſaid Receipt, during the ſaid Period of Ten Years, a Book or Books, in which the ſaid Remainder of the ſaid Revenue ſhall, together with the Monies ariſing from any other Duties granted or to be granted in this Seſſion of Parliament, for the Purpoſe of defraying ſuch encreaſed Charge as aforeſaid, be entered ſeparate and apart from all other Monies paid or payable to His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, upon any Account whatever.

Perſons ſued may plead the General Iſſue.

XV. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, at any Time or Times, be ſued, moleſted, or proſecuted for any Thing by him, her, or them done or executed in purſuance of this Act, or of

any Clauſe, Matter, or Thing herein contained, ſuch Perſon and Perſons ſhall and may plead the General Iſſue, and give the ſpecial Matter in Evidence for his or their Defence; and if, upon the Trial, a Verdict ſhall paſs for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs ſhall become nonſuited, then ſuch Defendant or Defendants ſhall have Treble Coſts awarded to him, her, or them, againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

Treble Coſts.

Act may be altered or repealed this Seſſion

XVI. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, varied, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be made in this preſent Seſſion of Parliament.

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