ANNO QUADRAGESIMO SECUNDO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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C A P. LXXIII.

An Act for the Preservation of the Health and Morals of Apprentices and others, employed in Cotton and other Mills, and Cotton and other Factories.

[22d *June* 1802.]

WHEREAS it hath of late become a Practice in Cotton and Woollen Mills, and in Cotton and Woollen Factories, to employ a great Number of Male and Female Apprentices, and other Persons, in the same Building; in consequence of which certain Regulations are become necessary to preserve the Health and Morals of such Apprentices and other Persons; 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 Second Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and two, all such Mills and Factories within *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, wherein Three or more Apprentices, or Twenty or more other Persons, shall at any Time be employed, shall be subject to the several Rules and Regulations contained in this Act; and the Master or Mistress of every such Mill or Factory is hereby strictly enjoined and required to pay due Attention to and act in strict Conformity to the said Rules and Regulations.

From *Dec.* 2, 1802, Mills and Factories employing a certain Number of Persons subject to the Regulations of this Act.

The Rooms ſhall be waſhed with Quick Lime and Water Twice a Year, and Care ſhall be taken to admit freſh Air.

II. And be it enacted, That all and every the Rooms and Apartments in or belonging to any ſuch Mill or Factory ſhall, Twice at leaſt in every Year, be well and ſufficiently waſhed with Quick Lime and Water over every Part of the Walls and Cieling thereof; and that due Care and Attention ſhall be paid by the Maſter or Miſtreſs of ſuch Mills or Factories, to provide a ſufficient Number of Windows and Openings in ſuch Rooms or Apartments, to inſure a proper Supply of freſh Air in and through the ſame.

Apprentices ſhall be ſupplied with Two complete Suits of Cloathing, &c. and a Suit ſhall be delivered yearly.

III. And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Maſter or Miſtreſs ſhall conſtantly ſupply every Apprentice, during the Term of his or her Apprenticeſhip, with Two whole and complete Suits of Cloathing, with ſuitable Linen, Stockings, Hats, and Shoes; One new complete Suit being delivered to ſuch Apprentice Once at leaſt in every Year.

Time of working not to exceed 12 Hours.

IV. And be it further enacted, That no Apprentice that now is or hereafter ſhall be bound to any ſuch Maſter or Miſtreſs, ſhall be employed or compelled to work for more than Twelve Hours in any One Day, (reckoning from Six of the Clock in the Morning to Nine of the Clock at Night), excluſive of the Time that may be occupied by ſuch Apprentice in eating the neceſſary Meals: Provided always, that, from and after the Firſt Day of *June* One thouſand eight hundred and three, no Apprentice ſhall be employed or compelled to work upon any Occaſion whatever, between the Hours of Nine of the Clock at Night and Six of the Clock in the Morning.

From *June* 1, 1803, no Apprentices to be compelled to work between Nine at Night and Six in the Morning.

In Mills or Factories wherein a certain Number of Spindles are uſed, Apprentices may be employed in the Night till certain Periods.

V. And be it further enacted, That in any Mill or Factory, wherein *not leſs* than One thouſand nor more than Fifteen hundred Spindles are conſtantly uſed in the carrying on of the Manufacture, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Owner or Owners of ſuch Mill to employ his Apprentices in the Night until the Twenty-fifth Day of *December* One thouſand eight hundred and three; and in any Mill or Factory wherein more than Fifteen hundred Spindles ſhall be employed, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Owner of ſuch Mill to employ his Apprentices in the Night until the Twenty-fifth Day of *June* One thouſand eight hundred and four; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Apprentices to be inſtructed every working Day for the Firſt Four Years of his Apprenticeſhip in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick, *etc.*

VI. And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Apprentice ſhall be inſtructed, in ſome Part of every working Day, for the Firſt Four Years at leaſt of his or her Apprenticeſhip, which ſhall next enſue from and after the Second Day of *December* One thouſand eight hundred and two, if he or ſhe is an Apprentice on the ſaid Second Day of *December* One thouſand eight hundred and two, and for the Firſt Four Years at leaſt of his or her Apprenticeſhip, if his or her Apprenticeſhip commences at any Time after the ſaid Second Day of *December* One thouſand eight hundred and two, in the uſual Hours of Work, in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetick, or either of them, according to the Age and Abilities of ſuch Apprentice, by ſome diſcreet and proper Perſon, to be provided and paid by the Maſter or Miſtreſs of ſuch Apprentice, in ſome Room or Place in ſuch Mill or Factory to be ſet apart for that Purpoſe; and that the Time hereby directed to be allotted for ſuch Inſtruction as aforeſaid, ſhall be deemed and taken on all Occaſions as Part of the reſpective Periods limited

limited by this Act during which any such Apprentice shall be employed or compelled to work.

Apartments of Male and Female Apprentices to be kept distinct, and Two only shall sleep in One Bed.

VII. And be it further enacted, That the Room or Apartment in which any Male Apprentice shall sleep, shall be entirely separate and distinct from the Room or Apartment in which any Female Apprentice shall sleep; and that not more than Two Apprentices shall in any Case sleep in the same Bed.

Regulations to be observed for the Instruction of Apprentices on *Sundays*.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That every Apprentice, or (in case the Apprentices shall attend in Classes), every such Class shall, for the Space of One Hour at least every *Sunday*, be instructed and examined in the Principles of the Christian Religion, by some proper Person to be provided and paid by the Master or Mistress of such Apprentice; and in *England* and *Wales*, in case the Parents of such Apprentice shall be Members of the Church of *England*, then such Apprentice shall be taken, Once at least in every Year during the Term of his or her Apprenticeship, to be examined by the Rector, Vicar, or Curate of the Parish in which such Mill or Factory shall be situate; and shall also after such Apprentice shall have attained the Age of Fourteen Years, and before attaining the Age of Eighteen Years, be duly instructed and prepared for Confirmation, and be brought or sent to the Bishop of the Diocese to be confirmed, in case any Confirmation shall, during such Period, take Place in or for the said Parish; and in *Scotland* where the Parents of such Apprentice shall be Members of the established Church, such Apprentice shall be taken, Once at least in every Year, during the Term of his or her Apprenticeship, to be examined by the Minister of the Parish; and shall after such Apprentice shall have attained the Age of Fourteen Years, and before attaining the Age of Eighteen Years, be carried to the Parish Church to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as the same is administered in Churches in *Scotland*; and such Master or Mistress shall send all his or her Apprentices under the Care of some proper Person, Once in a Month at least, to attend during Divine Service in the Church of the Parish or Place in which the Mill or Factory shall be situated, or in some other convenient Church or Chapel where Service shall be performed according to the Rites of the Church of *England*, or according to the established Religion in *Scotland*, as the Case may be, or in some licensed Place of Divine Worship; and in case the Apprentices of any such Master or Mistress cannot conveniently attend such Church or Chapel every *Sunday*, the Master or Mistress, either by themselves or some proper Person, shall cause Divine Service to be performed in some convenient Room or Place in or adjoining to the Mill or Factory, Once at least every *Sunday* that such Apprentices shall not be able to attend Divine Service at such Church or Chapel; and such Master or Mistress is hereby strictly enjoined and required to take due Care that all his or her Apprentices regularly attend Divine Service, according to the Directions of this Act.

Justices at their *Midsummer* Sessions yearly shall appoint Two Visitors of such Mills or Factories,

IX. And be it further enacted, That the Justices of the Peace for every County, Stewartry, Riding, Division, or Place, in which any such Mill or Factory shall be situated, shall, at the *Midsummer* Sessions of the Peace to be holden immediately after the passing of this Act for such County, Stewartry, Riding, Division, or Place, and afterwards Yearly at their annual

who shall report the Condition thereof to the Quarter Sessions, &c.

annual *Midsummer* Sessions of the Peace, appoint Two Persons, not interested in, or in any Way connected with, any such Mills or Factories, to be Visitors of such Mills or Factories in such County, Stewartry, Riding, Division, or Place; One of whom shall be a Justice of Peace for such County, Stewartry, Riding, Division, or Place, and the other shall be a Clergyman of the established Church of *England* or *Scotland*, as the Case may be; and in case it shall be found inconvenient to appoint One such Justice and One such Clergyman as aforesaid, it shall be lawful to and for such Justices, and they are hereby required to appoint Two such Justices or Two such Clergymen; and the said Visitors, or either of them, shall have full Power and Authority from Time to Time throughout the Year, to enter into and inspect any such Mill or Factory, at any Time of the Day, or during the Hours of Employment, as they shall think fit; and such Visitors shall report from Time to Time in Writing, to the Quarter Sessions of the Peace, the State and Condition of such Mills and Factories, and of the Apprentices therein, and whether the same are or are not conducted and regulated according to the Directions of this Act, and the Laws of the Realm; and such Report shall be entered by the Clerk of the Peace among the Records of the Session in a Book kept for that Purpose: Provided always, that in case there shall be Six or more such Mills or Factories within any One such County, Riding, Division, or Place, then it shall be lawful for such Justices to divide such County, Riding, Division, or Place, into Two or more Districts or Parts, and to appoint Two such Visitors as aforesaid for each of such Districts or Parts.

In case of infectious Disorders prevailing, the Visitors may require the Master to call in medical Assistance, *etc.*

X. And be it further enacted, That in case the said Visitors or either of them shall find that any infectious Disorder appears to prevail in any Mill or Factory as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for them or either of them to require the Master or Mistress of any such Mill or Factory to call in forthwith some Physician, or other competent medical Person, for the Purpose of ascertaining the Nature and probable Effects of such Disorder, and for applying such Remedies and recommending such Regulations as the said Physician, or other competent medical Person, shall think most proper for preventing the spreading of the Infection and for restoring the Health of the Sick; and that such Physician, or other competent medical Person, shall report to such Visitors, or either of them, as often as they shall be required so to do, their Opinion in Writing of the Nature, Progress, and present State of the Disorder, together with its probable Effects; and that any Expences incurred in consequence of the Provisions aforesaid for medical Assistance, shall be discharged by the Master or Mistress of such Mill or Factory.

Penalty for obstructing Visitors.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall oppose or molest any of the said Visitors in the Execution of the Powers intrusted to them by this Act, every such Person or Persons shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds nor less than Five Pounds.

Copies of this Act to be affixed in Two conspicuous Places of such Mills or Factories.

XII. And be it further enacted, That the Master or Mistress of every such Mill or Factory shall cause printed or written Copies of this Act to be hung up and affixed in Two or more conspicuous Places in such Mill or Factory, and shall cause the same to be constantly kept and renewed,

ſo that they may at all Times be legible and acceſſible to all Perſons employed therein.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That every Maſter or Miſtreſs of any ſuch Mill or Factory who ſhall wilfully act contrary to or offend againſt any of the Proviſions of this Act, ſhall for ſuch Offence, (except where otherwiſe directed), forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds nor leſs than Forty Shillings, at the Diſcretion of the Juſtices before whom ſuch Offender ſhall be convicted as after mentioned; One Half whereof ſhall be paid to the Informer, and the other Half to the Overſeers of the Poor in *England* and *Ireland*, and to the Miniſter and Elders in *Scotland*, of the Pariſh or Place where ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, to be by them applied in Aid of the Poor Rate, in *England* and *Ireland*, and for the Benefit of the Poor in *Scotland*, of ſuch Pariſh or Place: Provided always, that all Informations for Offences againſt this Act, ſhall be laid within One Calendar Month after the Offence committed, and not afterwards. Penalty on Maſters offending againſt this Act.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Maſter or Miſtreſs ſhall, at the *Epiphany* Seſſions in every Year, make, or cauſe to be made, an Entry in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe by the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Riding, or Diviſion in which any Mill or Factory ſhall be ſituate, of every ſuch Mill or Factory occupied by him or her wherein Three or more Apprentices or Twenty or more other Perſons, ſhall be employed; and the ſaid Clerk of the Peace ſhall receive for every ſuch Entry the Sum of Two Shillings and no more. Mills or Factories employing a certain Number of Perſons to be entered in a Book kept by the Clerk of the Peace, who ſhall receive 2 s. for each Entry.

XV. And be it further enacted, That all Offences for which any Penalty is impoſed under this Act, ſhall and may be heard before any Two or more Juſtices of the Peace, acting in or for the Place where the Offence ſhall be committed; and all Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act impoſed, and all Coſts and Charges attending the Conviction of any ſuch Offender or Offenders, ſhall and may be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offenders Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Two or more Juſtices of the Peace acting for the County, Stewartry, Riding, Diviſion, or Place where ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, rendering the Overplus (if any) to the Party or Parties offending; and which Warrant ſuch Juſtices are hereby empowered and required to grant, upon Conviction of the Offender, either by Confeſſion, or upon the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes (which Oath ſuch Juſtices are hereby empowered to adminiſter); and in caſe ſuch Diſtreſs cannot be found, and ſuch Penalties, Forfeitures, and Coſts ſhall not be forthwith paid, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Juſtices, and they are hereby empowered and required, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to commit ſuch Offender or Offenders to the Common Gaol or Houſe of Correction of the County, Stewartry, Riding, Diviſion, or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed, for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months, unleſs the ſaid Penalty, Forfeiture, and Coſts, ſhall reſpectively be ſooner paid and ſatisfied: Provided always, that no Warrant of Diſtreſs ſhall be iſſued for levying any ſuch Penalty, Forfeiture, or Coſts, until Six Days after the Offender ſhall have been convicted, and an Order made upon him or her for Payment thereof; and no ſuch Conviction ſhall be removeable by *Certiorari* or Bill of Advocation into any Court whatſoever. Penalties and Forfeitures how to be recovered.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That every ſuch Conviction before ſuch Juſtices may be made in the following Form; to wit,

Form of Conviction.

'County of } BE it remembered, That on the
' to wit. } Day of in the Year
'*A. B.* was, upon the Complaint of *C. D.*, convicted before
'of the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid County of
'[*or*, for of or in the ſaid County of
'*as the Caſe ſhall happen to be*], in purſuance of an Act, paſſed in the
'Forty-ſecond Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King *George* the Third,
'for [or, *as the Caſe may be*]. Given under our Hands and Seals, the Day
'and Year above written.'

Which Conviction ſhall be certified to the next General Quarter Seſſions, there to be filed amongſt the Records of the County, Riding, or Diviſion.

Publick Act.

XVII. And be it enacted, That this Act ſhall be deemed and taken to be a publick Act, and ſhall be judicially taken Notice of as ſuch, by all Judges, Juſtices, and others, without ſpecially pleading the ſame.

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