ANNO QUADRAGESIMO TERTIO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

****

C A P. LII.

An Act for indemnifying all Persons who have been concerned in issuing or carrying into Execution certain Orders of Council for the Prevention of the Exportation of Gunpowder, Saltpetre, and Naval Stores, and the Permission of the Exportation of Seed Corn to *Norway*. [11th *June* 1803.]

WHEREAS the State of publick Affairs required a temporary Restraint upon the Exportation of Gunpowder, Saltpetre, and Naval Stores: And whereas certain Quantities of Saltpetre and Naval Stores, about to be exported to *France* and the *Batavian* Republick, and other Parts beyond the Seas, have, under certain Orders and Directions issued and given for that Purpose to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs, been detained in *Great Britain*, and not allowed to be cleared out for Exportation: And whereas also the great Distress of the Kingdom of *Norway* for Seed Corn was represented to His Majesty, and Application made for Permission to export a limited Quantity of Grain: And whereas it would have been derogatory to the Character of His Majesty to have refused such Assistance to a Nation in Amity with His said Majesty: And whereas from the Lateness of the Season serious Inconvenience might have arisen from delaying such Permission, and Leave was therefore given to export Five thousand Quarters of Corn from any Parts of *Great Britain* for the supplying of the Kingdom of *Norway*: And whereas it is therefore expedient that the Prohibition aforesaid, as to the Exportation of Gunpowder, Saltpetre, and Naval Stores, and Permission to export such Corn as aforesaid, should be sanctioned by Parliament;

ment; and all Persons issuing, advising, or acting under or in Obedience to the said Orders respectively indemnified; 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 all personal Actions or Suits, Indictments, Informations, and all Prosecutions and Proceedings whatsoever, which have been or shall be prosecuted or commenced against any Person or Persons for or by reason of any Act, Matter, or Thing advised, commanded, appointed, or done or forborne to be done, in relation to the said Orders, or of any Contract or Agreement not performed by reason or means of, or in Obedience to, such Orders, be, are, and shall be discharged and made void by virtue of this Act; and that if any Action or Suit shall be prosecuted or commenced against any Person or Persons for or by reason of any such Act, Matter, or Thing so advised, commanded, appointed, or done or forborne to be done, or such Contract or Agreement not performed, he, she, or they, may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in any Action or Suit so to be prosecuted or commenced after the Twenty-third Day of *March* One thousand eight hundred and three, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, shall become nonsuit, or forbear further Prosecution, or suffer Discontinuance; or if a Verdict pass against such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall recover his, her, or their Double Costs, for which he, she, or they, shall have the like Remedy as in Cases where Costs by Law are given to the Defendant; and if any such Action or Suit shall be commenced or prosecuted after the said Twenty-third Day of *March* One thousand eight hundred and three, in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, the Court before whom such Action or Suit shall be commenced or prosecuted, shall allow to the Defender the Benefit of the Discharge and Indemnity hereby provided, and shall further allow to him his Double Costs of Suit in all such Cases as aforesaid.

Actions shall be discharged against Persons concerned in carrying into Execution Orders of Council for preventing the Exportation of Gunpowder, Saltpetre, &c. and for permitting the Exportation of Seed Corn, &c.

Defendants in Actions brought after *March* 23, 1803, shall have Double Costs.

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit hath been already commenced against any Person or Persons for any such Act, Matter, or Thing so advised, commanded, appointed, or done or forborne to be done, or on Account of any such Contract or Agreement not performed, it shall and may be lawful for the Defendants or Defenders in such Actions or Suits respectively, in whatever Courts in *Great Britain* such Actions or Suits shall have been commenced, to apply to such Court or Courts respectively, to stay all Proceedings therein respectively by Motion in a summary Way, and such Court or Courts are hereby required to make Order for that Purpose accordingly; and the Court or Courts making such Order shall award and allow to the Defendants or Defenders respectively, Double Costs of Suit, for which they shall respectively have the like Remedy, as in Cases where the Costs are by Law given to Defendants or Defenders.

Defendants may apply to the Court to stay Proceedings, *etc.*

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1803.