

ANNO QUADRAGESIMO SEXTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XCII.

An Act to amend Three Acts, made in the Thirty-fifth, Forty-first, and Forty-second Years of His present Majesty, relating to the Conveyance of Letters and Packets by the Post.

[16th *July* 1806.]

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Forty-second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for amending so much of an Act passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, as relates to the secreting, embezzling, or destroying any Letter or Packet sent by the Post, and for the better Protection of such Letters and Packets; and for more effectually preventing Letters and Packets being sent otherwise than by the Post*; it was among other Things enacted, that, from and after the passing of the said Act, no Person or Persons whatsoever should send, or cause to be sent or conveyed, or tender or deliver, in order to be sent or conveyed otherwise than by the Post, or by and with the Authority and Consent of the Postmaster General for the Time being, or his Deputy or Deputies, or to the nearest or most convenient Post Town, to be from thence forwarded by the Post, any Letter or Letters, Packet or Packets of Letters, on pain of forfeiting for every such Offence against the Tenor of the said Act the Sum of Five Pounds, to be recovered and applied as in the said Act is directed: And whereas no Provision is made by the said Act for recovering the Penalties thereby inflicted in the Case of Offences committed in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, whereby Offenders 42 G. 3. c. 81.

Offenders againſt the ſaid Acts have avoided the Penalties thereby intended to be inflicted: 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 after the paſſing of this Act, all and every the pecuniary Penalties in the ſaid recited Act mentioned and thereby impoſed, ſhall and may, in the Caſe of any Offence againſt the aforeſaid Act, which ſhall be committed in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, be ſued for and recovered in His Majeſty's Court of Seſſions, Court of Juſticiary, or Court of Exchequer in *Scotland*, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Eſſoign, Protection, Privilege, Wager of Law, or more than one Imparlance ſhall be allowed, with full Coſts of Suit, by any Perſon who ſhall and will inform and ſue for the ſame; One Moiety thereof to the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and the other Moiety thereof to the Uſe of the Perſon who ſhall ſo inform and ſue for the ſame.

Penalties under recited Act, in caſe of Offences in Scotland, to be ſued in the Court of Seſſion, &c.

II. And whereas by an Act, made in the Forty-firſt Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *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; it was amongſt other Things enacted, that, from and after the paſſing of the ſaid Act, it ſhould be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſt Maſter General 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 ſhould be carried by the Poſt in the uſual Manner; and alſo the Collection and Conveyance of Letters in and from 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 Services to be performed, as ſhould and might be mutually agreed upon by and between the Poſtmaſter General and the Inhabitants reſpectively: And whereas it may be expedient to give Permiſſion to the Poſt Maſter General to collect, convey, and deliver Letters in and from Towns, Villages, and Places, although ſuch Letters may not have been previouſly ſent by the Poſt, or may not be intended to be forwarded by the Poſt; be it therefore enacted, That, from and after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſt Maſter General, in his Diſcretion, to undertake, at the Expence of the ſaid Revenue, the Conveyance and Delivery of Letters directed to Perſons abiding in Towns, Villages, and Places, (not being Poſt Towns) from any other Towns, Villages, and Places, (not being Poſt Towns); and alſo the Collection and Conveyance of Letters in and from any Towns, Villages, and Places, (not being Poſt Towns) to any other Towns, Villages, and Places, (not being Poſt Towns); and to take ſuch Sum and Sums of Money for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, for ſuch reſpective Extra Services 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.

41 G. 3. c. 7.

Poſtmaſter General may undertake the Delivery of Letters to and from Places not Poſt Towns, at ſuch Rates as ſhall be agreed on between him and the Inhabitants:

III. Provided always nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to hinder

But ſuch Inhabitants ſhall not be prevented

or

or prevent the Inhabitants of any such Towns, Villages, and Places respectively from carrying or re-carrying or employing any Messenger, Servant, or other Person, to carry or re-carry any Letters or Packets to or from such Towns, Villages, and Places respectively; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

from employing Messengers to carry Letters to or from such Places.

IV. 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.

Money arising to be applied as the present Rates of Postage.

V. And whereas by an Act of Parliament, 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*; it was enacted, that no Single Letter sent by the Post from any Non commissioned Officer, Seaman, or Private, employed in His Majesty's Navy, Army, Militia, Fencible Regiment, Artillery, or Marine, should be charged with a higher Rate of Postage than One Penny for the Conveyance of each such Letter to be paid at the Time of putting the same into the Post Office; provided that there should be written upon every such Letter, in the Hand Writing of and signed by the Commanding Officer of the Ship or Vessel, or of the Corps, Regiment, or Detachment to which such Non-commissioned Officer, Seaman, or Private should belong, the Name of such Commanding Officer, and the Name of the Ship, Vessel, Corps, Regiment, or Detachment commanded by him; and it was further enacted, that no Single Letter sent by the Post directed to any such Non commissioned Officer or other Person herein-before enumerated, upon his own private Concerns only, whilst employed on His Majesty's Service, should be chargeable with an higher Rate of Postage than One Penny, which it was enacted should be paid at the Time of the Delivery thereof: And whereas Abuses have been committed in the Exercise of the Permission granted by the said recited Act, whereby the Revenue has been injured; and it is therefore expedient that the said recited Act, with respect to the sending Letters by the Post from and to Non-commissioned Officers, Seamen, and Private Men in the Army and Navy, at a low Rate of Postage, should be repealed, and other Regulations adopted in lieu thereof; be it therefore enacted, That so much of the said recited Act as relates to Letters to be sent by the Post from and to Non-commissioned Officers, Seamen or Private Men, employed in His Majesty's Navy, Army, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery, or Marines, at a low Rate of Postage, shall, from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and six, be and the same is hereby repealed.

55 G. 3. c. 52.

So much of recited Act as relates to Letters to be sent by the Post from or to Non-commissioned Officers, Seamen, or Privates in Navy or Army at a low Rate of Postage, shall be repealed.

VI. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and six, it shall be lawful to and for each and every Seaman employed in His Majesty's Navy within any Part of His Majesty's Dominions, whilst such Seaman shall be actually employed in His Majesty's Service, and not otherwise, to send Single Letters by the Post on his own private Concern only, at the Rate of One Penny only for each such Letter, the same to be paid upon putting the same into the Post

Seamen in the Navy may send Single Letters by the Post on paying One Penny for each, the Regulation herein mentioned being to be observed.

Office of the Town or Place from whence ſuch Letter is intended to be ſent by the Poſt: Provided nevertheleſs, that upon every ſuch Letter ſo to be ſent, the Name of the Writer, and his Claſs or Deſcription in the Ship or Veſſel to which he ſhall belong, ſhall be ſuperſcribed; and provided alſo, that upon every ſuch Letter there ſhall be written, in the Hand Writing of and ſigned by the Officer having at the Time the Command of the Ship or Veſſel, his Name and the Name of the Ship or Veſſel commanded by him.

And they may receive Single Letters free from Poſtage, One Penny having been paid when put into the Poſt Office, and the Regulation herein mentioned being complied with.

VII. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and ſix, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Seaman employed in His Majeſty's Navy, within any Part of His Majeſty's Dominions, whilſt ſuch Seaman ſhall be actually employed in His Majeſty's Service and not otherwiſe, to receive by the Poſt on his own private Concerns only, free from Poſtage, Single Letters; provided that the Sum of One Penny for the Poſtage of each Single Letter ſhall be paid upon putting the ſame into a Poſt Office eſtabliſhed under the Authority of His Majeſty's Poſt Maſter General; and provided alſo, that every ſuch Letter ſhall be directed to ſuch Seaman, ſpecifying on the Superſcription thereof the Ship or Veſſel to which he ſhall belong, and provided likewiſe, that it ſhall not be lawful for the Deputy Poſtmaſter of the Town or Place to which ſuch Letter ſhall be ſent to be delivered, to deliver ſuch Letter to any Perſon except the Seaman to which ſuch Letter ſhall be directed, or to ſome Perſon appointed to receive the ſame, by Writing under the Hand of the Officer having the Command of the Ship or Veſſel to which ſuch Seaman ſhall belong: Provided nevertheleſs, that nothing herein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to Letters ſent by or to Commiſſioned Officers or Warrant Officers, Midſhipmen, or Maſters Mates.

Serjeants, &c. and Privates of the Army, &c. may ſend Letters in like Manner, on paying One Penny for each, &c.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and ſix, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Serjeant, Corporal, Drummer, Trumpeter, Fifer, and Private Soldier, in His Majeſty's Regular Forces, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery, or Royal Marines, within any Part of His Majeſty's Dominions whilſt ſuch Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and private Soldier reſpectively ſhall be actually employed in His Majeſty's Service, and not otherwiſe, to ſend Single Letters by the Poſt, on his and their own private Concerns only, at the Rate of One Penny only for each ſuch Letter, the ſame to be paid when putting the ſame into the Poſt Office in the Town or Place from whence ſuch Letter is intended to be ſent by the Poſt: Provided nevertheleſs, that upon every ſuch Letter ſo to be ſent, the Name of the Writer and his Claſs or Deſcription in the Regiment, Corps, or Detachment to which he ſhall belong ſhall be ſubſcribed; and provided alſo, that upon every ſuch Letter there ſhall be written in the Hand Writing of and ſigned by the Officer having at the Time the Command of the Regiment, Corps, or Detachment, his Name and the Name of the Regiment, Corps, or Detachment commanded by him.

And may receive Letters free from Poſtage, One Penny having

IX. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and ſix, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for each and every Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer,

Fifer, and Private Soldier in His Majesty's Regular Forces, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery, or Marines, within any Part of His Majesty's Dominions, whilst such Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, shall be actually employed in His Majesty's Service, and not otherwise, to receive by the Post, on his or their own private Concerns only, free from Postage, single Letters; provided that the Sum of One Penny for the Postage of each such Letter shall be paid upon putting the same into a Post Office established under the Authority of His Majesty's Post Master General; and provided also, that every such Letter shall be directed to such Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, specifying on the Superscription thereof the Name of the Regiments, Corps, or Detachment to which he shall belong; and provided likewise that it shall not be lawful for the Deputy Postmaster of the Town or Place to which such Letter shall be sent to be delivered, to deliver such Letter to any Person, except the Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, to whom such Letter shall be directed, or to some Person appointed to receive the same, by Writing under the Hand of the Officer having the Command of the Regiment, Corps, or Detachment to which such Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier shall belong.

Letters to have been paid when put into the Post Office.

Conditions.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to Letters sent by or to Commissioned Officers, or Warrant Officers.

Not to extend to Letters sent by or to Commissioned or Warrant Officers.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person, having the Command of the Ship, Vessel, Regiment, Corps, or Detachment, and who is hereby authorized to write his Name and the Name of the Ship, Vessel, Regiment, Corps, or Detachment commanded by him, upon any single Letter from any such Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, shall wilfully and knowingly write his Name upon any such Letter that is not from any such Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, and on his or their own private Concerns only, such Commanding Officer shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds.

Penalty on Commanders of Ships writing their Name on Letters not from any Seaman, &c.

XII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person, not having at the Time the Command of the Ship, Vessel, Regiment, Corps, or Detachment, shall write his Name upon any such Letter, in order that the same may be sent at a lower Rate of Postage than by Law established, every such Person shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds.

Penalty on Persons, not having the Command of the Ship, writing their Name on Letters,

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons whomsoever shall knowingly and designedly address a Letter or Letters to any such Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier, which shall be intended for another Person, or which shall be concerning the Affairs of another Person, with Intent to evade the Payment of the Rate of Postage by Law established, every such Person or Persons so offending shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds.

and on addressing Letters to Seamen, &c. intended for other Persons, to evade the Postage.

Penalty for obtaining the Signature of the Commanding Officer to Letters not on the private Concerns of Seamen, &c.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons whomſoever ſhall procure any ſuch Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, or Private Soldier, to obtain the Signature of his Commanding Officer to any Letter or Letters to be ſent by the Poſt, which ſhall not be on the private Concerns of ſuch Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier; or if any ſuch Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, and Private Soldier ſhall himſelf obtain the Signature of his Commanding Officer upon any Letter or Letters which ſhall not be from ſuch Seaman, Serjeant, Corporal, Trumpeter, Drummer, Fifer, or Private Soldier, and upon his own private Concerns only, in order to avoid the Payment of the Rates of Poſtage as by Law eſtabliſhed, each and every Perſon ſo offending ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds.

Application of Penalties.

XV. And be it further enacted, That One Moiety of the ſeveral Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act impoſed upon any Offender or Offenders againſt the ſame ſhall be to the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and the other Moiety to the Perſon who ſhall and will inform and ſue for the ſame, and ſhall and may be recovered before any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace for the County, City, Riding, Town or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed, either by the voluntary Confeſſion of the Party, or upon the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, (which Oath or Oaths the ſaid Juſtice or Juſtices is hereby authorized and required to adminiſter,) and in default of Payment it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Juſtice and Juſtices to commit ſuch Offender or Offenders to the Houſe of Correction for any Space (not exceeding One Month) or until ſuch Forfeiture or Penalty ſhall be ſooner paid.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1806.