

ANNO QUADRAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. LXXVI.

An Act for raising the Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds by way of Annuities.

[18th *June* 1808.]

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 to raise the necessary Supplies which we have chearfully granted to Your Majesty in this Session of Parliament, have resolved that the Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds be raised by Annuities, in Manner 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 this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That every Contributor towards raising the said Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds shall, for every One hundred Pounds contributed and paid, be entitled to the Principal Sum of One hundred and eighteen Pounds Three Shillings and Sixpence in Annuities, after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, to commence

Every Contributor of 100l. to be entitled to a Principal of 118l. 3s. 6d. in the Four per Cents.

mence from the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and eight.

Contributors who have made Depoſits to pay the Remainder of Subſcriptions by Inſtalments.

II. And whereas, purſuant to and upon the Terms and Conditions expreſſed in the ſaid Reſolution, ſeveral Perſons have, in Books opened at the Bank of *England* for that Purpoſe, ſubſcribed together the Whole of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds to be raiſed by Annuities; and made Depoſits of Ten Pounds *per Centum* on the reſpective Sums by them ſo ſubſcribed to the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds to be raiſed by Annuities, with the Caſhiers of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*; be it therefore enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for ſuch Contributors, who have made ſuch Depoſits with the Caſhier or Caſhiers of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, (which Caſhier or Caſhiers is and are hereby appointed the Receiver and Receivers of ſuch Contributions, without any other Warrant to be had in that Behalf,) to advance and pay unto the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, the ſeveral Remainders of the Sums by them reſpectively ſubſcribed towards the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds at or before the reſpective Days and Times, and in the Proportions herein-after limited and appointed in that Behalf; (that is to ſay), the further Sum of Ten Pounds *per Centum*, on or before the Fifteenth Day of *July* then next following; the further Sum of Fifteen Pounds *per Centum* on or before the Nineteenth Day of *Auguſt* then next following; the further Sum of Fifteen Pounds *per Centum* on or before the Sixteenth Day of *September* then next following; the further Sum of Fifteen Pounds *per Centum*, on or before the Fourteenth Day of *October* then next following; the further Sum of Ten Pounds *per Centum*, on or before the Eighteenth Day of *November* then next following; the further Sum of Ten Pounds *per Centum*, on or before the Sixteenth Day of *December* then next following; and the remaining Sum of Fifteen Pounds *per Centum*, on or before the Thirteenth Day of *January* One thouſand eight hundred and nine.

Guardians may ſubſcribe for Infants.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Guardian or Truſtee, having the Diſpoſition of the Money of any Infant, to contribute and pay for or towards advancing the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds to be raiſed by Annuities in Manner aforeſaid; and ſuch Infant, upon the Payment of ſuch Sum or Sums ſubſcribed by ſuch Guardian or Truſtee, ſhall become a Contributor within the Meaning of this Act, and be entitled to have and receive the Annuities, Advantages, and Payments, in reſpect thereof, in ſuch and the like Manner as any other Contributor; and the ſaid Guardian and Truſtee, as to the ſaid Sum or Sums ſo advanced, is hereby diſcharged, ſo as the Name of ſuch Infant be expreſſed in the Receipt or Receipts for ſuch Money.

Diſcount to be allowed on Payment of the whole Subſcription by Dec. 15th 1808.

IV. And be it further enacted, That every Contributor paying in the Whole of the Sums by them reſpectively ſubſcribed in reſpect of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds to be contributed as aforeſaid, at any Time on or before the Fifteenth Day of *December* One thouſand

thouſand eight hundred and eight, ſhall be entitled to an Allowance of ſo much Money as the Intereſt of each Sum ſo paid in Advance for completing his, her, or their Contribution reſpectively ſhall amount unto, after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum* from the Day of completing the ſame, to the Thirteenth Day of *January* One thouſand eight hundred and nine, which Allowance is to be paid by the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers out of the Money to be contributed in purſuance of this Act as ſoon as ſuch reſpective Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, and Aſſigns, ſhall have completed ſuch Payment.

Contributors entitled to certain Annuities payable Half-yearly, but not till their Subſcriptions are completed.

V. And be it further enacted, That the ſeveral Subſcribers or Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, and Aſſigns, in reſpect of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds ſhall be entitled for every One hundred Pounds by him, her, or them reſpectively advanced and paid, to an Annuity after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum* in reſpect of the Principal Sum of One hundred and eighteen Pounds Three Shillings and Sixpence, from the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and eight, until Redemption by Parliament in Manner herein-after mentioned; which ſaid Annuities ſhall be payable and paid Half-yearly, by even and equal Portions; on the Tenth Day of *October* and the Fifth Day of *April* in every Year; the Firſt Payment to be due on the Tenth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight, but ſhall not be payable until the reſpective Subſcribers or Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, or Aſſigns, ſhall have completed the Whole of the Sums by them ſubſcribed for the Purchaſe of the ſaid Annuities.

As ſoon as Subſcriptions are completed they may be transferred.

VI. And be it further enacted, That as ſoon as any Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, or Aſſigns, ſhall have completed their Payments of the Whole Sum payable by them reſpectively towards the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, the Principal Sum or Sums in the ſaid Annuities after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum* ſhall forthwith be, in the Books of the Bank of *England*, placed to the Credit of ſuch reſpective Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, or Aſſigns, completing ſuch Payments reſpectively; and the Perſons to whoſe Credit ſuch Principal Sums ſhall be ſo placed, their reſpective Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, and Aſſigns, ſhall and may have Power to aſſign and transfer the ſame, or any Part, Share, or Proportion thereof, to any other Perſon or Perſons, Body or Bodies Politick or Corporate whatſoever, in the Books of the Bank of *England*; and the ſaid Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* are hereby required, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the paſſing of this Act, to prepare proper Books for the Purpoſe of entering the Names of all ſuch Contributors, and of placing to their Credit the Principal Sums ſo paid by them reſpectively; and that ſuch of the ſaid Contributors, their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, or Aſſigns, who ſhall complete the Payments of the whole Sum payable by them reſpectively, towards the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, at any Time before the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* ſhall have prepared their Receipts according to the Directions of this Act, ſhall be entitled to have the Sums ſo paid forthwith placed to their Credit in the Books of the Bank of *England*; and the ſaid Governor and Company are hereby required

quired to cauſe ſuch Sums to be forthwith placed to the Credit of the Perſons entitled to the Annuities in reſpect thereof, in the Books of the ſaid Bank of *England*; and ſuch Entries in the ſaid Books ſhall be in lieu of the Receipts hereby directed to be given for all Sums paid in Manner aforeſaid; and ſuch Sums ſhall carry the ſaid Annuities after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, redeemable by Parliament; and ſhall be taken and deemed to be Stock transferrable according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, until Redemption thereof, in ſuch Manner as is hereinafter mentioned.

Contributors paying the Whole of their Subſcriptions by the Times herein ſpecified, to be entitled to Annuities of certain Periods.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all and every ſuch Contributor or Contributors, his, her or their Executors, Adminiſtrators, Succeſſors, and Aſſigns, who ſhall have paid into the Hands of the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers the Whole of his, her, or their Contribution Money, on or before the Seventh Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight, ſhall be entitled to have and receive on the Tenth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight at the Bank of *England*, the Half Year's Annuity that ſhall become due on the Tenth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight; and that all and every Perſon or Perſons who ſhall not have completed the Whole of their ſaid Payments on or before the ſaid Seventh Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight, ſhall on completing the ſame within the Time in this Act preſcribed, be entitled to receive the Year's Annuity from the Fifth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and eight, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Duty granted by 46 G. 3. c. 65. not to be charged on the Half Year's Dividends herein ſpecified, &c.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Duty granted by an Act of the Forty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, *for granting to His Majeſty during the preſent War, and until the Sixth Day of* April *next after the Ratification of a Definitive Treaty of Peace, further Rates and Duties on Profits ariſing from Property, Profeſſions, Trades, and Offices*, ſhall not be charged upon the Half Year's Dividend payable on the Tenth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight of ſo much of the Four Pounds *per Centum* Annuitie created by this Act, as ſhall not have been written into the Books of the Bank of *England* on or before ſuch Day as ſhall be appointed by the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* for cloſing the Accounts of the ſaid Four Pounds *per Centum* Annuities, previous to the Payment of the Half-yearly Dividend thereupon that will become due on the Tenth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight.

Annuities payable and transferrable at the Bank.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the Annuities aforeſaid ſhall be payable and paid, and be transferrable at the Bank of *England*, and ſhall be ſubject to ſuch Redemption as is herein-after mentioned.

Money to be iſſued out of the Conſolidated Fund of Great Britain for Payment of Annuities and Charges;

X. And be it further enacted, That ſo much Money ſhall, from Time to Time, be ſet apart and iſſued at the Receipt of the Exchequer in *England*, out of the Conſolidated Fund of *Great Britain*, to the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* as ſhall be ſufficient to ſatisfy and pay the reſpective Annuities to be created in reſpect of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, together with the Charges attending the ſame.

XI. And

XI. And be it further enacted, That all the ſaid Annuities, Intereſt and Dividends, which ſhall become payable in reſpect of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds ſhall be charged and chargeable upon and are hereby charged upon and made payable out of the Conſolidated Fund of *Great Britain*. and ſhall be charged upon the ſaid Fund.

XII. And be it further enacted, That the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury in *Ireland*, or any Three or more of them for the Time being, ſhall, without any further Warrant to be ſued for, had, or obtained in this Behalf, cauſe to be iſſued at the Receipt of His Majeſty's Exchequer out of the Conſolidated Fund of *Ireland*, and paid into the Receipt of His Majeſty's Exchequer in *England*, ſo much Monies as ſhall be ſufficient to anſwer to the ſaid Exchequer in *England*, the ſeveral and reſpective Annuities and other Payments hereby directed to be paid thereout, on or before the Fifth Day of *October* and the Firſt Day of *April* in every Year; the Firſt Payment to be made on or before the Fifth Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and eight. The Treaſury in Ireland to iſſue out of the Conſolidated Fund and pay into the Exchequer in England, Money to anſwer Annuities, &c. to a certain Amount.

XIII. And, for the more eaſy and ſure Payment of all the Annuities eſtabliſhed by this Act, be it further enacted, That the ſaid Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, and their Succeſſors, ſhall from Time to Time, until all the ſaid Annuities ſhall be redeemed, appoint and employ One or more ſufficient Perſon or Perſons, within their Office in the City of *London*, to be their Chief or Firſt Caſhier or Caſhiers, and One other ſufficient Perſon within the ſame Office, to be their Accountant General; and that ſo much of the Monies by this Act appropriated for the Purpoſe, as ſhall be ſufficient from Time to Time to anſwer the ſaid Annuities, and other Payments, herein directed to be made out of the ſaid Monies, in reſpect of the Whole of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, ſhall, by Order of the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury of *Great Britain*, or any Three or more of them, or the High Treaſurer of *Great Britain* for the Time being, without any further Warrant to be ſued for, had, or obtained in that Behalf, from Time to Time, at the reſpective Days of Payment in this Act appointed for Payment thereof, be iſſued and paid at the Receipt of the Exchequer of *Great Britain*, to the ſaid Firſt or Chief Caſhier or Caſhiers of the ſaid Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, and their Succeſſors for the Time being, by way of Impreſt and upon Account for the Payment of the ſaid Annuities payable by virtue of this Act; and that ſuch Caſhier or Caſhiers, to whom the ſaid Money ſhall from Time to Time be iſſued, ſhall from Time to Time, without Delay, pay the ſame accordingly, and render his or their Accounts thereof, according to the due Courſe of the Exchequer in *Great Britain*; and that the ſaid Accountant General for the Time being ſhall from Time to Time inſpect and examine all Receipts and Payments of the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers, and the Vouchers relating thereto, in order to prevent any Fraud, Negligence, or Delay. The Bank to appoint a Caſhier and an Accountant General, and the Treaſury to order Money to be iſſued to the Caſhier for Payment of Annuities.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the Caſhier or Caſhiers of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* who ſhall have received or ſhall receive any Part of the ſaid Contributions towards the ſaid Sum of Ten Caſhier to give Receipt for Subſcriptions, which may be aſſign-

ed before Dec. 16. 1808.

Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds shall give a Receipt or Receipts in Writing to every such Contributor for all such Sums; and that the Receipts to be given shall be assignable at any Time before the Sixteenth Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and eight, and no longer: Provided always, that such Cashier or Cashiers shall give Security to the good liking of any Three or more of the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the High Treasurer of *Great Britain* for the Time being, for duly answering and paying into the Receipt of His Majesty's Exchequer in *Great Britain* as after mentioned, for the public Use, all the Monies which they have already received, and shall hereafter receive from Time to Time, of and for the Whole of the said Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds, and for accounting duly for the same, and for Performance of the Trust hereby in him or them reposed, and shall from Time to Time pay all such Monies as soon as he or they shall receive the same, or any Part thereof, or within Five Days afterwards at the farthest, into and shall account for the same, in the Exchequer of *Great Britain* according to the due Course thereof, deducting thereout such Sums as shall have been paid by him or them in pursuance of this Act, for which Sums so paid Allowance shall be made in his or their Accounts.

Cashier to give Security for paying the Money he receives into the Exchequer.

A Book to be kept in the Accountant General's Office for entering Contributors Names, a Duplicate whereof to be transmitted to the Auditors of the Exchequer.

XV. And be it further enacted, That in the Office of the Accountant General of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* for the Time being, a Book or Books shall be provided and kept, in which the Names of the Contributors shall be fairly entered; which Book or Books, the said respective Contributors, their respective Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, shall and may from Time to Time, and at all seasonable Times, resort to and inspect without any Fee or Charge; and that the said Accountant General shall, on or before the Fifth Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and nine, transmit an attested Duplicate, fairly written on Paper, of the said Book or Books into the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of His Majesty's Exchequer of *Great Britain*, there to remain for ever.

Contributors duly paying their Subscriptions entitled to Annuities Tax free.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That such Contributors duly paying in the whole Sum so subscribed at or before the respective Times, in this Act limited in that Behalf, and their respective Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, shall have, receive, and enjoy, and be entitled by virtue of this Act to have, receive, and enjoy, the said Annuities by this Act granted in respect of the Sum so subscribed out of the Monies granted and appropriated in this Session of Parliament for Payment thereof, and shall have good and sure Interests and Estates therein, according to the several Provisions in this Act contained, and that the said Annuities shall be free from all Taxes, Charges, and Impositions whatsoever.

Subscriptions paid in Part and not completed, forfeited.

XVII. Provided always, That in case any such Contributors who have already deposited with or shall hereafter pay to the said Cashier or Cashiers any Sum or Sums of Money at the Time and in the Manner hereinbefore mentioned, in Part of the Sum or Sums so by them respectively subscribed, or their respective Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, shall not advance and pay to the said Cashier or Cashiers, the

Reſidue of the Sum or Sums ſo ſubſcribed at the Times and in the Manner before mentioned, then and in every ſuch Caſe ſo much of the reſpective Sum or Sums ſo ſubſcribed, as ſhall have been actually paid in Part thereof to the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers, ſhall be forfeited for the Benefit of the Public, and all Right and Title to the ſaid Annuities after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, reſpectively, in reſpect thereof, ſhall be extinguiſhed; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Annuities to be deemed Perſonal Eſtate.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That all Perſons who ſhall be entitled to any of the Annuities hereby granted in reſpect of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, and all Perſons lawfully claiming under them, ſhall be poſſeſſed thereof as of a Perſonal Eſtate, which ſhall not be deſcendible to Heirs, nor liable to any Foreign Attachment by the Cuſtom of *London*, or otherwiſe; any Law, Statute, or Cuſtom to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Treaſury may apply the Money paid into the Exchequer.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for any Three or more of the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, or the High Treaſurer of *Great Britain*, for the Time being, to iſſue and apply from Time to Time all ſuch Sums of Money as ſhall be ſo paid into the Receipt of His Majeſty's Exchequer of *Great Britain*, by the ſaid Caſhier or Caſhiers to ſuch Services as ſhall then have been voted by the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in this preſent Seſſion of Parliament.

Treaſury may remit to Ireland Part of the Loan.

XX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the ſaid Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or any Three or more of them ſhall and may, and they are hereby authorized, out of the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds, or out of any other the Aids or Supplies granted or to be granted for the Service of the Year One thouſand eight hundred and eight to remit to the Exchequer of that Part of the United Kingdom called *Ireland*, from Time to Time, any Sums of Money, not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Two Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds to be applied to ſuch Services for *Ireland*, as ſhall have been voted by the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in this preſent Seſſion of Parliament.

Accountant General to keep Books for entering Transfers.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That Books ſhall be conſtantly kept by the ſaid Accountant General for the Time being, wherein all Aſſignments or Transfers of all Sums advanced or contributed towards the ſaid Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thouſand Pounds ſhall be entered and regiſtered; which Entry ſhall be conceived in proper Words for that Purpoſe, and ſhall be ſigned by the Parties making ſuch Aſſignments or Transfers, or if ſuch Parties be abſent, by their reſpective Attorney or Attornies thereunto lawfully authorized, in Writing under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to be atteſted by Two or more credible Witneſſes; and that the ſeveral Perſons to whom ſuch Tranſfers ſhall be made, ſhall reſpectively underwrite their Acceptance thereof, and that no other Method of aſſigning and transferring the ſaid Annuities,

Annuities, or any Part thereof, or any Interest therein, shall be good or available in Law: Provided always, that all Persons possessed of any Share or Interest in the said Annuities, or any Estate or Interest therein, may devise the same by Will, in Writing, attested by Two or more credible Witnesses; but that no Payment shall be made upon any such Devise, until so much of the said Will as relates to such Share, Estate, or Interest, in the said Annuities, be entered in the said Office; and that in Defaults of such Transfer or Devise, such Share, Estate, or Interest, in the said Annuities, shall go to the Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns; and that no Stamp Duties whatsoever shall be charged on any of the said Transfers; any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Stock may be devised.

Transfers not liable to Stamp Duties.

XXII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That out of the Monies arising from the Contributions towards raising the said Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds by Annuities, any Three or more of the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the High Treasurer of *Great Britain* for the Time being, shall have Power to discharge all such incident Charges as shall necessarily attend the Execution of this Act, in such Manner as to them shall seem just and reasonable; and also, to allow and pay to the said Cashier or Cashiers for receiving, paying, and accounting for the said Contributions at the Rate of Eight hundred Pounds for every Million of such Contributions; and also shall have Power to make out of the said Consolidated Fund, such further Allowances as shall be judged reasonable for the Service, Pains, and Labour, of the said Cashier or Cashiers for receiving paying and accounting for the said Annuities payable by virtue of this Act; and also for the Service, Pains, and Labour of the said Accountant General, for performing the Trust reposed in him by this Act; all which Allowances to be made as aforesaid, in respect of the Service, Pains, and Labour of any Officer or Officers of the said Governor and Company, shall be for the Use and Benefit of the said Governor and Company, and at their Disposal only.

Treasury may defray incidental Expences out of Contributions, and allow Salaries to the Cashier and Accountant General.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That all the Monies to which any Person or Persons shall become entitled by virtue of this Act, in respect of any Sum advanced or contributed towards the said Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds, on which the said Annuities, after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, shall be attending, shall be added to the Joint Stock of Annuities transferrable at the Bank of *England*, into which the several Sums carrying an Interest after the Rate of Four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, were by Two Acts made in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Years of the Reign of His present Majesty and by several subsequent Acts, converted and shall be deemed Part of the said Joint Stock of Annuities, subject nevertheless to Redemption by Parliament, in such Manner, and upon such Notice as in the said Acts are directed in respect of the Annuities redeemable by virtue of the said Acts, and that all and every Person and Persons and Corporations whatsoever, in Proportion to the Money to which he, she, or they, shall become entitled as aforesaid by virtue of this Act, shall have and be deemed to have a proportional Interest and Share in the said Joint Stock of Annuities at the Rate aforesaid.

The 4 l. per Cent. Annuities to be added to the Joint Stock of 4 l. per Cent. Annuities.

XXIV. And

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be forged or counterfeited, or shall willingly act or assist in the forging or counterfeiting any Receipt or Receipts for the Whole of or any Part or Parts of the said Contributions towards the said Sum of Ten Millions Five hundred thousand Pounds, either with or without the Name or Names of any Person or Persons being inserted therein, as the Contributor or Contributors thereto, or Payer or Payers thereof, or of any Part or Parts thereof, or shall alter any Number, Figure, or Word therein, or utter or publish, as true, any such false, forged, counterfeited, or altered Receipt or Receipts, with Intent to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, or any Body Politic or Corporate, or any Person or Persons whatsoever, every such Person or Persons so forging or counterfeiting, or causing or procuring to be forged or counterfeited, or willingly acting or assisting in the forging or counterfeiting, or altering, uttering, or publishing as aforesaid, being thereof convicted in due Form of Law, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death as a Felon without Benefit of Clergy.

Persons counterfeiting Receipts for Contributions, &c. guilty of Felony.

XXV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the said Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, and their Successors, notwithstanding the Redemption of all or any of their own Funds, in pursuance of the Acts for establishing the same, or any of them, shall continue a Corporation for the Purposes of this Act, until the Annuities by this Act granted shall be redeemed by Parliament as aforesaid; and that the said Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, or any Member thereof, shall not incur any Disability for or by reason of their doing any Matter or Thing in pursuance of this Act.

Bank to continue a Corporation till the Annuities hereby granted cease.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That no Fee, Reward, or Gratuity whatsoever, shall be demanded or taken of any of His Majesty's Subjects, for receiving or paying the said Subscription or Contribution Monies or any of them, or for any Receipt, concerning the same, or for paying the said Annuities, or any of them, or for any Transfer of any Sum, great or small, to be made in pursuance of this Act, upon Pain that any Officer or Person offending, by taking or demanding any such Fee, Reward, or Gratuity, shall, for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds to the Party aggrieved, with full Costs of Suit, to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoign, Protection, Privilege, or Wager of Law, Injunction, or Order of Restraint, or any more than One Imparlance shall be granted or allowed.

No Fee to be taken for receiving Contributions, or paying or transferring Annuities, on Penalty of 20*l*.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall be sued, molested, or prosecuted, for any Thing done by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, such Person or Persons shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence, in his, her, or their Defence or Defences; and if afterwards a Verdict shall pass for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall discontinue his, her, or their Action or Prosecution, or be non-

Persons sued may plead the General Issue.

fuited, or Judgement ſhall be given againſt him, her, or them, upon Demurrer or otherwiſe, then ſuch Defendant or Defendants ſhall have Treble Coſts awarded to him, her, or them, againſt any ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

Treble Coſts.

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