ANNO QUADRAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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CAP. CIX.

An Act to repeal ſeveral Acts reſpecting the Woollen Manufacture, and to amend other Acts relating to the ſaid Manufacture; and for allowing Perſons employed in any Branch of the Woollen Manufacture to ſet up Trade in any Place in *Great Britain*. [15th *June* 1809.]

WHEREAS certain Acts and Parts of Acts heretofore made from Time to Time for controlling the Manufacturer in the making and ſelling of Woollen Cloth, are at this Day not only unneceſſary, but if enforced might be extremely injurious; and it is therefore expedient to repeal the ſame; 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 a certain Act made in the
Second Year of King *Edward* the Third, intituled, *The Meaſure and* 2 E. 3. c. 14.
Aſſize of Ray and of Colour; another Act made in the Thirteenth Year of
King *Richard* the Second, intituled, *The Cloths of certain Counties tacked* 13 R. 2. c. 11.
and folded, ſhall not be put to Sale before they be opened; another Act made
in the Seventeenth Year of King *Richard* the Second, intituled, *Every* 17 R. 2. c. 2.
Perſon may make Cloth of what Length and Breadth he will; another Act
made in the Eleventh Year of King *Henry* the Sixth, intituled, *Of what* 11 H. 6. c. 9.
Length and Breadth Cloths called Streits ſhall be; another Act made in the
Seventh Year of King *Edward* the Fourth, intituled, *For Cloths made in* 7 E. 4. c. 2.
the Hundreds of Lifton, Taviſtock, *and* Rowburgh, *in* Devonſhire; another Act made in the Firſt Year of King *Richard* the Third, intituled,

1 R. 3. c. 8. *The Length and Breadth of Cloths, and the Order of dying them and Wools, the Ability of the Aulneger, and what Cloths he may ſeal;* another Act made
5 H. 8. c. 2. in the Fifth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, intituled, *An Act for the true making of Cloths in* Devon *called White Straits;* another Act made in the
6 H. 8. c. 8. Sixth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, intituled, *An Act concerning the making of certain Woollen Cloths in the County of* Devon; another Act made in the Sixth Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, inti-
6 H. 8. c. 9. tuled, *An Act to avoid Deceits in making of Woollen Cloths;* another Act
25 H. 8. c. 18. made in the Twenty-fifth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, intituled, *An Act for Clothiers in Worceſterſhire;* another Act made in the Twenty-ſeventh
27 H. 8. c. 12. Year of King *Henry* the Eighth, intituled, *The Act for the true making of Cloth;* another Act made in the Thirty-third Year of King *Henry* the
33 H. 8. c. 3. Eighth, intituled, *The Bill for folding of Cloths in* North Wales; another Act made in the Third and Fourth Years of King *Edward* the Sixth,
3 & 4 E. 6. c. 2. intituled, *An Act for the true making of Woollen Cloths;* another Act made
5 & 6 E. 6. c. 6. in the Fifth and Sixth Years of King *Edward* the Sixth, intituled, *An Act for the true making of Woollen Cloth;* another Act made in the Fifth and
5 & 6 E. 6 c. 22. Sixth Years of King *Edward* the Sixth, intituled, *An Act for putting down of Gig Mills;* another Act made in the Firſt Year of Queen *Mary,* inti-
1 M. Seſſ. 3. c. 7. tuled, *An Act touching Cloth making in Corporate Towns and Market Towns;* another Act made in the Second and Third Years of King *Philip*
2 & 3 P. & M. c. 11. and Queen *Mary*, intituled, *An Act touching Weavers;* another Act made in the Second and Third Years of King *Philip* and Queen *Mary*, intituled,
2 & 3 P. & M. c. 12. *An Act for the ſealing and viewing of Clothes commonly called* Bridgwaters; another Act made in the Fourth and Fifth Year of King *Philip* and Queen
4 & 5 P. & M. c. 5. *Mary*, intituled, *An Act touching the making of Woollen Cloths;* another
1 Eliz. c. 14. Act made in the Firſt Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act for the continuing the making of Woollen Clothes in divers Towns in the County of* Eſſex; another Act made in the Twenty-third Year of Queen *Elizabeth*,
23 Eliz. c. 9. intituled, *An Act for abóliſhing of certain deceitful Stuff uſed in dying of Cloth, &c.;* another Act made in the Twenty-ſeventh Year of Queen
27 Eliz. c. 17. *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act touching the Breadth of White Woollen Clothes made within the Counties of* Wilts, Glouceſter, Somerſet, *and* Oxon, *&c.;* another Act made in the Twenty-ſeventh Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, inti-
27 Eliz. c. 18. tuled, *An Act concerning the making of Woollen Clothes in the Counties of* Devon *and* Cornwall, *called* Plain White Straight and Pinned White Straight; an-
35 Eliz. c. 9. other Act made in the Thirty-fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act touching the Breadth of Plunkets, Azures and Blues, and other coloured Clothes made within the Counties of* Somerſet *and elſewhere of like making;*
35 Eliz. c. 10. another Act made in the Thirty-fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act for the Reformation of ſundry Abuſes in Clothes, called* Devonſhire Kerſies *or* Dozens, *according to a Proclamation of the Thirty-fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady the Queen that now is;* another Act made in the
39 Eliz. c. 20. Thirty-ninth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act againſt the deceitful ſtretching and tentering of Northern Cloth;* another Act paſſed in
43 Eliz. c. 10. the Forty-third Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled, *An Act for the true making and working of Woollen Clothes;* another Act made in the Fourth
4 Jac. 1. c. 2. Year of King *James* the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for the true making of Woollen Cloth;* another Act made in the Twenty-firſt Year of King *James*
21 Jac. 1. c. 18. the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for Continuance of a former Act made in the Fourth Year of the King's Majeſty's Reign of* England, &c. *intituled, 'An Act for the true making Woollen Cloths,' and for ſome Additions and Alterations in and to the ſame;* another Act made in the Seventh Year

of

of Queen *Anne*, intituled, *An Act for the better aſcertaining the Lengths and Breadths of Woollen Cloth made in the County of* York; another Act made in the Tenth Year of Queen *Anne*, intituled, *An Act for regulating, improving, and encouraging the Woollen Manufacture of mixt or medley Broad Cloth, and for the better Payment of the Poor employed therein*; and another Act made in the First Year of the Reign of King *George* the First, intituled, *An Act to make an Act of the Tenth Year of her late Majeſty, intituled, 'An Act for regulating, improving, and encouraging of the 'Woollen Manufacture of mixt or medley Broad Cloth, and for the better 'Payment of the Poor employed therein,' more effectual for the Benefit of Trade in general; and alſo to render more effectual an Act of the Seventh Year of Her ſaid Majeſty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for the better aſcer-'taining the Lengths and Breadth of Woollen Cloth made in the County of* York; ſhall be and the ſame are hereby repealed. 7 Anne, c. 13. 10 Ann. c. 16. 1 G. 1. c. 15. Recited Acts repealed.

II. And be it further enacted, That ſo much of a certain other Act paſſed in the Twenty-ſeventh Year of King *Edward* the Third, intituled, *The Aulnegers Fees for every Cloth ſold, Cloths ſhall be ſealed before they be put to Sale, a Subſidy granted to the King of every Cloth ſold*, as directs that Cloths ſhall be ſealed before they be put to Sale: And ſo much of a certain other Act made in the Fourth Year of King *Edward* the Fourth, intituled, *The Length and Breadth of Cloths made to be ſold, no Cloths wrought beyond Sea ſhall be brought into* England, as directs that every whole Woollen Cloth, called Broad Cloth, and all Manner of Cloths called Streits, and every Cloth called Kerſey, which ſhall reſpectively be made and ſet to Sale ſhall be of certain ſpecified Lengths and Breadths reſpectively, with a certain Proviſion in a Caſe where the Cloth ſhall exceed the limited Meaſure, and that every Half Cloth of every of the ſaid Whole Cloths, Streits and Kerſeys, ſhall keep his Meaſure in Length and Breadth, according to the Rate, Form, and Nature, of his Whole Cloth aforeſaid; and that no Perſon which ſhall make any Woollen Cloth to ſell, ſhall mingle or put in or upon the ſame Cloth, nor the Wool whereof the ſaid Cloth ſhall be made, any Lambs Wool, Flock or Cork in any Manner, under the Penalty therein mentioned, except in particular Caſes; and that every of the ſaid Cloths and Half Cloths ſhall perfectly and rightly purſue and follow one Order of Workmanſhip from one End to the other, without Difference in the weaving, fulling, knotting, or burling; and that certain Seals ſhall be uſed and ſet upon the ſaid Cloths for the Purpoſe of denoting the Workmanſhip, Length, Breadth, comparative Size, and other diſtinguiſhing Qualities for the ſeveral Sorts of Cloth, and that Keepers of the ſaid Seals ſhall be appointed and ſhall perform certain Duties, and ſuch Keepers and Aulnegers ſhall be ſubject to Penalties for Offences therein mentioned; and that Clothmakers ſhall pay to Labourers in the ſaid Trade lawful Money for their Wages, and ſhall deliver Wools to be wrought according to the faithful Delivery and due Weight thereof, under the Penalties therein mentioned; and that every Carder, Spinſter, Weaver, Fuller, Sheerman, and Dyer, ſhall duly perform his Duty in his Occupation; and that every Fuller in his Craft and Occupation of fulling, rowing, or tayſelling, of Cloth, ſhall exerciſe and uſe Tayſells and no Cards deceitfully impairing the ſame Cloth; and that Juſtices of Peace and certain other Magiſtrates ſhall have Power to hear and determine certain Complaints of every ſuch Clothmaker and Labourer, and ſhall exerciſe their Juriſdiction in that Behalf in the Manner therein ſpecified, and that ſuch Juſtices or Magiſtrates ſhall have Juriſdiction over Parts of certain Acts repealed, viz. 27 E. 3. c. 4. 4 E. 4. c. 1.

Perſons offending againſt that Ordinance, and that ſuch Perſons ſhall be ſubject to a Forfeiture, and that ſuch Juſtices or Magiſtrates ſhall have certain Powers for exerciſing their Juriſdiction in that Behalf: And ſo much of a certain other Act made in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, intituled,
5 Eliz. c. 4. *An Act containing divers Orders for Artificers, Labourers, Servants of Huſbandry, and Apprentices*, as directs, that no Perſon ſhall be detained, hired, or taken into Service to work for any leſs Time than for One whole Year in any of the Sciences, Crafts, Myſteries, or Arts of Clothiers, Woollen Cloth Weavers, Tuckers, Fullers, Clothworkers, Sheermen, or Dyers of Wool or Woollen Cloth; and that every Perſon being unmarried, and every other Perſon being under the Age of Thirty Years, and having been brought up in any of the ſaid Arts, Crafts, or Sciences, or that hath uſed or exerciſed any of them by the Space of Three Years or more, and not having Real or Perſonal Property of a certain ſpecified Value, nor being retained with any Perſon in Huſbandry, or in any of the Arts and Sciences according to that Statute, nor in any other Art or Science, nor in Houſehold, or in any Office with any Nobleman, Gentleman or others, according to the Laws of this Realm, nor having a convenient Farm or other Holding in Tillage, whereupon he may employ his Labour, ſhall upon Requeſt made by any Perſon uſing the Art or Myſtery wherein the ſaid Perſon ſo required hath been exerciſed (as is aforeſaid) be retained, and ſhall not refuſe to ſerve according to the Tenor of that Statute, upon the Pain and Penalty thereafter mentioned; and that no Perſon dwelling in any City or Town Corporate, uſing or exerciſing any of the Myſteries or Crafts of a Clothier, that doth or ſhall put Cloth to making and Sale, ſhall take any Apprentice or Servant to be inſtructed or taught in any of the Arts, Occupations, Crafts, or Myſteries which he doth uſe or exerciſe, except ſuch Servant or Apprentice be his Son, or elſe that the Father and Mother of ſuch Apprentice or Servant ſhall have Freehold Property of a certain Amount; and that no Perſon dwelling in any ſuch Market Town, uſing or exerciſing the Feat, Myſtery, or Art of a Clothier, that doth or ſhall put Cloth to making and Sale, ſhall take any Apprentice, or in anywiſe teach or inſtruct any Perſon in the Art, Science, or Myſtery laſt before recited, except ſuch Servant or Apprentice ſhall be his Son, or elſe that the Father or Mother of ſuch Apprentice ſhall have Freehold Property of a certain annual Value; and that no Perſon ſhall ſet up, occupy, uſe, or exerciſe any Craft, Myſtery, or Occupation then uſed or occupied within the Realm of *England* or *Wales*, except he ſhall have been brought up therein Seven Years at the leaſt as an Apprentice in Manner and Form in the ſaid laſt recited Act mentioned, nor ſhall ſet any Perſon on work in ſuch Myſtery, Art, or Occupation, except he ſhall have been Apprentice as is aforeſaid, or elſe having ſerved as an Apprentice ſhall become a Journeyman, or be hired by the Year ſo far only as the ſaid laſt-mentioned Proviſion reſpects Perſons employed in any of the Crafts, Myſteries, or Occupations of Clothiers, Woollen Cloth Weavers, Tuckers, Fullers, Clothworkers, Sheermen, or Dyers of Wool or Woollen Cloth; and that all Perſons that ſhall have Three Apprentices in any of the ſaid Crafts, Myſteries, or Occupations of a Clothmaker, Fuller, Sheerman, or Weaver, ſhall retain and keep one Journeyman, and for every other Apprentice above the Number of Three Apprentices One other Journeyman; and ſo much of a certain other Act paſſed in the Third
3 Jac. I. c. 16. Year of King *James* the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for the repeal of one Act made in the Fourteenth Year of Queen* Elizabeth's *Reign, concerning the Length of Kerſies*, as directs that Kerſies, commonly called *Ordinary Kerſies*, and that

that Kerſies called *Sorting Kerſies*, ſhall not exceed reſpectively a certain Length, and ſhall be reſpectively of a certain Weight according to the Length, and if any Kerſies ſhall either exceed the preſcribed Length or fall ſhort of the preſcribed Weight, then every Perſon that ſhall make the ſame for Sale ſhall be ſubject to the Forfeiture therein mentioned, and that every Perſon ſelling or trading in any ſuch Kerſey ſhall pay a Cuſtom and Subſidy after a ſpecified Rate; and ſo much of a certain other Act paſſed in the Thirteenth Year of King *George* the Firſt, intituled, *An Act for the better Regulation of the Woollen Manufacture, and for preventing Diſputes among the Perſons concerned therein, and for limiting a Time for proſecuting for the Forfeiture appointed by an Act of the Twelfth Year of His Majeſty's Reign, in caſe of Payment of the Workmen's Wages in any other Manner than in Money*, as directs that no Clothier or Maker of Woollen Cloths, Druggets, or other Woollen Goods, or Goods mixed with Wool, ſhall uſe any Ends of Yarn, Wefts, or other Refuſe of Cloths, Druggets, or other Woollen Goods, or Goods mixed with Wool, (Flocks and Pinions only excepted) by working the ſame up again into any Sorts of Goods whatſoever, under a certain Penalty; and that every Owner of Tentor or Tentors, Rack or Racks for ſuch Cloth, within the Counties of *Glouceſter*, *Wilts*, and *Somerſet*, ſhall meaſure ſuch Tentor or Tentor's Rack as ſhall be made uſe of for tentering or racking ſuch Cloth, and mark the true Length of Yards of each Tentor or Rack thereon, in the Manner particularly directed by the ſaid laſt recited Act, and under the Penalty therein mentioned; and that the Juſtices of the Peace for the Counties aforeſaid ſhall appoint Inſpectors, with a certain Salary to each of them, and with certain Duties and Powers particularly pointed out by the ſaid laſt recited Act; and that any Clothier or Maker of any ſuch Cloth, or any Millman or other Perſon within the Counties aforeſaid, ſhall incur a Penalty for refuſing Entrance to any ſuch Inſpector, and that any ſuch Inſpector acting againſt his Oath ſhall forfeit Twenty Pounds; and that every Maker of mixed or medley Woollen Broad Cloth within the Counties aforeſaid, ſhall pay to the Inſpector the Sum of Two-pence *per* Cloth for every ſuch Cloth he ſhall make before the Cloths are ſent away from the Mill; and the ſaid Inſpector ſhall pay the Money ſo received into the Hands of the Treaſurer of the County, to be applied towards the Salaries of Inſpectors to be appointed by virtue of the ſaid laſt recited Act; and that any Millman within the Counties aforeſaid, ſending Home to any Clothier or Maker of Cloth, any ſuch Cloth or Cloths as aforeſaid, before they are inſpected and meaſured as aforeſaid, ſhall for every Piece of Cloth ſo ſent Home forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings; and ſo much of a certain other Act paſſed in the Fifth Year of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for repealing ſeveral Laws relating to the Manufacture of Woollen Cloth in the County of* York, *and alſo ſo much of ſeveral other Laws as preſcribes particular Standards of Width and Length of ſuch Woollen Cloths, and for ſubſtituting other Regulations of the Cloth Trade within the Weſt Riding of the ſaid County, for preventing Frauds in certifying the Contents of the Cloth, and for preſerving the Credit of the ſaid Manufacture at the Foreign Market*, as directs that if any Perſon or Perſons within the ſaid Weſt Riding of the ſaid County ſhall uſe or cauſe to be uſed in dreſſing of Cloth any Cards made with Wire or with Teeth of Iron or any other Metal whatſoever, every ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo uſing the ſame ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit Forty Shillings; ſhall be and the ſame are hereby repealed.

13 G. 1. c. 23.

5 G. 3. c. 51.

Act not to make void Contracts of Apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship not required.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall annul or make void any Contract of Apprenticeship whereby any Person shall have bound or shall bind himself as an Apprentice in any of the said Crafts, Mysteries, or Occupations of the Woollen Manufacture, for any Period allowed by Law: Provided always, that such Apprenticeship shall not be required as a previous Qualification for exercising any Branch of the Woollen Manufacture, either as a Master or a Journeyman.

This Act not to revive any Act repealed.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to revive any Act repealed by any of the Acts or Parts of Acts hereby repealed, but the same shall continue repealed as if this Act had not been made.

Persons who have served Apprenticeship to any Branch of the Woollen Manufactures, and their Wives and Families, may set up and exercise any Trade in any Place in Great Britain, &c.

V. And whereas Persons who have been educated and employed in the manufacturing Woollen Cloth have expressed Apprehensions, that in consequence of the Use of certain Machinery being allowed in the said Manufactory, and of the Repeal of that Part of the Statute of the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth* which respects Apprentices in the same, the Employment of many of the said Persons is likely to be diminished: And whereas in that Event many of them may be willing to employ themselves in such other Trades as they are or may become apt to follow and make Use of for the getting their living by their own Labour, but are or may be hindered from exercising those Trades in certain Cities and Corporations and other Places within *Great Britain*, because of certain Bye-Laws and Customs of those Places, or of the said Statute made in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*; for Remedy whereof, be it enacted, That all such Persons who have served an Apprenticeship to any Branch of the Woollen Manufacture, or who are by Law entitled to use and exercise the same, and also the Wives and Children of such Persons, may set up and exercise such Trade, or any other Trade or Business which they are apt and able for in any Town or Place within *Great Britain*, without any Let, Suit, or Molestation of any Person or Persons whatsoever, for or by Reason of the using of such Trade; nor shall any such Persons, or their Wives or Children, during the Time they shall exercise such Trades, be removeable from such respective Place or Places to his, her, or their last legal Place of Settlement, by virtue of any Law now in being relative to the Settlement of the Poor, until such Person or Persons shall become actually chargeable to such Parish or Place; and if any such Person, or the Wife or Child of any such Person, shall be sued, impleaded, or indicted in any Court whatsoever within this Kingdom, for using or exercising any such Trade as aforesaid, then the said Person, or the Wife or Child of any such Person, making it appear to the same Court where they are so sued, impleaded, or indicted, that they have served a legal Apprenticeship to the said Trade as aforesaid, or that he, she, or they, is or are the Wife or Wives, Child or Children, of such Person or Persons who shall have so served a legal Apprenticeship as aforesaid, shall upon the General Issue pleaded be found Not Guilty in any Plaint, Bill, Information, or Indictment exhibited against them; and such Persons who, notwithstanding this Act, shall prosecute the said Suit by Bill, Plaint, Information, or Indictment, and shall have a Verdict pass against him, or become nonsuit therein, or discontinue their said Suit, such Person or Persons shall pay unto such Persons who have served an Apprenticeship to, or who may be entitled to exercise any Branch of the Woollen

Manufacture, or the Wife or Child of such Person respectively, Double Costs of Suit, to be recovered as any other Costs at Common Law may be recovered; and all Judges and Juries, before whom any such Suit, Information, or Indictment shall be brought, and all other Persons whatsoever, are to take Notice of this present Act, and shall conform themselves thereto, any Statute, Law, Ordinance, Custom, or Provision to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Such Persons may be sworn by Two Justices as to the Place of their last Settlement.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County, Town, or Place where any such Person, or his Wife or Child, shall set up and exercise any Trade as aforesaid, to cause him or her to be summoned before them in the Town or Place where he or she shall set up and exercise such Trade as aforesaid, in order to make Oath of the Place of his or her last lega. Settlement (which Oath the said Justices are hereby empowered to administer), and such Person, or his Wife or Child, is hereby directed to obey such Summons, and to make Oath accordingly, and such Justices are hereby required to give an attested Copy of such Affidavit so made before them, to the Person making the same, in order that he or she may produce it when required, which attested Copy shall at any Time be admitted as Evidence as to such last legal Settlement, before any of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace.

Attested Copy of Oath to be tendered if summoned a second Time.

VII. Provided always, That in case any such Person or his Wife or Child shall again be summoned to make Oath as aforesaid, then on such attested Copy of the Oath by him or her formerly taken being produced by him or her, or by any other Person on his Behalf, such Person or his Wife or Child shall not be obliged to take any other or further Oath with regard to his or her legal Settlement, but shall leave a Copy of such attested Copy of his or her Examination, if required.

Act not to affect the Privileges of the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford:

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act shall not in anywise be prejudicial to the Privileges of the Universities of *Cambridge* and *Oxford*, or either of them, or extend to give Liberty to any Person to set up the Trade of a Vintner, or to sell any Wine or other Liquors within the said Universities without Licence first had and obtained from the Vice Chancellor of the same respectively.

Nor the City of London,

IX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to the City of *London*, or to alter the Laws and Customs relative to Apprentices in the said City.

LONDON: Printed by George Eyre and Andrew Strahan, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1809.