ANNO QUADRAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XLVI.

An Act to authorize the Principal Officers of the Customs in the *British* Colonies and Plantations in *America* and the *West Indies*, to examine Witnesses on Oath. [12th *May* 1809.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twenty-sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for regulating the Production of Manifests, and for more effectually preventing fraudulent Practices in obtaining Bounties and Drawbacks, and in the clandestine relanding of Goods*, the Surveyor General or Surveyors General of the Customs in the Port of *London*, upon Examinations and Enquiries relative to the Revenue of Customs, and to the Conduct of the Officers employed therein, are authorized to examine all Persons who may appear before them upon Oath; and the like Power is also given to the Collectors and Comptrollers of the Customs at the Out Ports of *Great Britain*, by an Act passed in the Forty-third Year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act for the further Regulation of the Collection of the Duties of Customs in* Great Britain *in certain Cases*: And whereas it is expedient, that upon the like Examinations and Enquiries to be made by or before the Collectors and Comptrollers of any of the Ports in the *British* Colonies and Plantations in *America* and the *West Indies*, or by or before such other Person or Persons as the Commissioners of the Customs in *England* for the Time being shall deem fit and proper, to examine and enquire into Matters relative

26 G. 3. c. 46.

43 G. 3. c. 128.

relative to the Revenue of Customs and other Duties, and respecting the Conduct of the Principal Officers, and any Officers whatever employed under them, in the *British* Colonies and Plantations in *America* and the *West Indies*, and shall or may from Time to Time appoint for the Purpose of making any such Examinations and Enquiries, the like Power to examine all Persons who may appear before them upon Oath, should be given to the said Collectors and Comptrollers, and such other Person or Persons aforesaid respectively; 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 passing of this Act, all and each and every Person and Persons who shall be examined as a Witness or Witnesses on any Enquiry directed by the Commissioners of the Customs in *England* for the Time being, or any Four or more of them, to be made in *America* or the *West Indies*, relative to His Majesty's Revenue of Customs or other Duties there, or to the Conduct of the Officers employed in the Collection thereof, by or before any Collector and Comptroller of the Customs or either of them, at or belonging to any Port in the *British* Colonies and Plantations in *America* or the *West Indies*, or by or before such other Person or Persons as shall be appointed by the said Commissioners or any Four or more of them, for the Purpose aforesaid, shall and they are hereby respectively required to deliver his, her, or their Testimony on Oath, to be administered by the said Officer or Officers, or the said other Person or Persons so appointed as aforesaid, respectively, who shall examine him, her, or them, or before whom he, she, or they shall be examined as aforesaid, and such Officer and Officers, and Person or Persons respectively, are hereby authorized to administer such Oath accordingly.

In Matters relative to the Customs Witnesses to give Testimony on Oath, which may be administered by the principal Officer of the Customs.

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons whomsoever shall be convicted of making a false Oath touching any of the Facts directed or required by this Act to be testified on Oath, or of giving false Evidence on his, her, or their Examination on Oath as aforesaid, by or before any Collector and Comptroller of the Customs, of, or belonging to any Port in the *West Indies* or *America*, or either of them, or such other Person or Persons appointed as aforesaid, in Conformity to the Directions of this Act, such Person or Persons so convicted as aforesaid shall be deemed guilty of Perjury, and shall be liable to the Pains and Penalties to which Persons are liable for wilful and corrupt Perjury.

Persons making a false Oath to be deemed guilty of Perjury.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1809.