ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SECUNDO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CXXXVIII.

An Act for the further Prevention of the counterfeiting of Silver Tokens iſſued by the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, called *Dollars*, and of Silver Pieces iſſued and circulated by the ſaid Governor and Company, called *Tokens*; and for the further Prevention of Frauds practiſed by the Imitation of the Notes or Bills of the ſaid Governor and Company. [20th *July* 1812.]

WHEREAS the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* have for the Convenience of the Public cauſed to be coined or ſtamped and circulated a large Quantity of Silver Dollars, containing on the Obverſe Side thereof an Impreſſion of His Majeſty's Head, and the following Words and Letters, *videlicet* "Georgius III. Dei Gratia Rex," and on the Reverſe Side thereof the Impreſſion of Britannia, and the following Words and Figures, *videlicet* "Five Shillings Dollar Bank of England 1804:" And whereas the ſaid Governor and Company, with the Approbation of His Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council, have alſo iſſued and circulated, for the Convenience of the Public, a Quantity of Silver Pieces, denominated *Tokens*, for the reſpective Sums of Three Shillings, and One Shilling and Sixpence, ſuch Tokens for the Sum of Three Shillings containing on the Obverſe Side thereof, an Impreſſion of His Majeſty's Head, and the following Words and Letters, *videlicet* "Georgius III. Dei Gratia Rex," and on the Reverſe Side thereof

the following Words and Figures, *videlicet* "Bank Token, 3 Shill." with the Addition of the Year in which the ſame were reſpectively made and ſtamped; and ſuch Tokens for the Sum of One Shilling and Sixpence, containing the ſame Impreſſion, Words, and Letters on the Obverſe Side thereof, as upon the ſaid Token for Three Shillings, and on the Reverſe Side thereof the following Words and Figures, *videlicet* "Bank Token, 1s. 6d." with the Addition of the Year in which the ſame were reſpectively coined or ſtamped: And whereas the ſaid Governor and Company intend to iſſue and circulate other like Tokens for the reſpective Sums of Three Shillings and One Shilling and Sixpence: And whereas the Circulation of the ſaid Dollars and Tokens has been of great Public Utility, but many Inſtances have occurred in which the ſame have been counterfeited, whereby the Public have been greatly defrauded, and the Puniſhment inflicted upon Perſons convicted of counterfeiting and uttering the ſame has been found inadequate to prevent ſuch Offences; for Remedy whereof 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 if any Perſon ſhall, from and after the Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and twelve, make, coin, or counterfeit, or cauſe or procure to be made, coined, or counterfeited, or willingly act or aſſiſt in the making, coining, or counterfeiting any Coin, Medal, or Device whatſoever, reſembling or made with Intent to reſemble, or look like the ſaid Dollars or Tokens, or any of them, or to paſs as ſuch, every Perſon ſo offending, and being thereof convicted by due Courſe of Law, ſhall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of Felony, and ſhall be tranſported for the Term of Fourteen Years.

Puniſhment for counterfeiting Bank Tokens,

and for putting off ſuch Counterfeit Tokens.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and twelve, if any Perſon ſhall utter, offer, or tender in Payment, or ſell or give in Exchange, or pay or put off to any Perſon or Perſons, any ſuch falſe or counterfeit Dollar or Dollars, Token or Tokens, as aforeſaid, knowing the ſame to be falſe or counterfeit, and ſhall either on the ſame Day or within the Space of Ten Days then next afterwards, utter, offer, or tender in Payment, or ſell or give in Exchange, or pay or put off any more or other ſuch falſe or counterfeit Dollar or Dollars, Token or Tokens, as aforeſaid, knowing the ſame to be falſe or counterfeit, to the ſame Perſon or Perſons, or to any other Perſon or Perſons, or ſhall at the Time of ſuch firſt uttering, offering, tendering in Payment, ſelling or giving in Exchange, paying or putting off, have in his or her Cuſtody or Poſſeſſion, one or more ſuch counterfeit Dollar or Dollars, Token or Tokens, as aforeſaid, or any Piece or Pieces of counterfeit Money whatſoever, beſides what was or were ſo uttered, offered, tendered in Payment, ſold, given in Exchange, paid or put off, then ſuch Perſon ſo uttering, offering, tendering in Payment, ſelling or giving in Exchange, paying or putting off the ſame, ſhall be deemed and taken to be a Common Utterer of ſuch counterfeit Dollars or Tokens, and being thereof convicted ſhall ſuffer One Year's Impriſonment, and ſhall find Sureties for his or her good Behaviour for Two Years more, to be computed from the End of the ſaid Year; and if any Perſon having been Once ſo convicted as a Common Utterer of ſuch counterfeit Dollars or Tokens ſhall afterwards again utter, offer, or tender in Payment, ſell or give in Exchange, pay or put off, any ſuch falſe or counterfeit Dollar or

Dollars, Token or Tokens, as aforesaid, to any Person or Persons, knowing the same to be false or counterfeit, then such Person, being thereof convicted, shall for such Second Offence be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of Felony, and shall be transported for the Term of Fourteen Years.

Persons guilty of such Offences discovering other Offenders not to be liable to Prosecution.

III. And be it hereby further enacted, That if any Person, being out of Prison, shall from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and twelve, commit any of the Offences aforesaid, and shall afterwards discover Two or more Persons who shall after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and twelve, have committed any of the said Offences, so as such Two or more Persons shall be thereof convicted, such Discoverer shall not be subject or liable to Prosecution for any of the said Offences which he may have previously committed.

Certificate of Conviction in any other County sufficient Proof.

IV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall be convicted of uttering, offering, tendering in Payment, selling, or giving in Exchange, paying or putting off any such false or counterfeit Dollar or Dollars, Token or Tokens as aforesaid, and shall afterwards be guilty of the like Offence in any other County, City, District, or Place, the Clerk of the Assize or the Clerk of the Peace for the County, City, District, or Place where such Conviction was so had, shall at the Request of the Prosecutor or any other Person on His Majesty's Behalf, certify the same by a Transcript in a few Words, containing the Effect and Tenor of such Conviction, for which Certificate Two Shillings and Sixpence and no more shall be paid, and such Certificate being produced in Court, shall be sufficient Proof of such former Conviction.

Punishment of Persons engraving any Plate, &c. the Impression taken from which shall resemble Bank of England Notes, or uttering any Paper resembling such Notes.

V. And whereas divers Frauds have been practised by making and publishing Papers with certain Words and Characters so nearly resembling the Notes and Bills of the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, as to appear to ignorant and unwary Persons to be the Notes or Bills of the said Governor and Company; for Prevention whereof be it enacted, That if any Person, from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and twelve, shall engrave, cut, etch, scrape, or by any other Means or Device make, or shall cause or procure to be engraved, cut, etched, scraped, or by any other Means or Device made, or shall knowingly aid or assist in the engraving, cutting, etching, scraping, or by any other Means or Device making, in or upon any Plate of Copper, Brass, Steel, Pewter, or of any other Metal or Mixture of Metals, or upon Wood or any other Materials, or upon any Plate whatsoever, any Word or Words, Figure or Figures, Character or Characters, the Impression taken from which shall resemble or be apparently intended to resemble the Whole or any Part of any of the Notes or Bills of the said Governor and Company commonly called *Bank Notes* and *Bank Post Bills*, or shall contain any Word, Number, Figure, or Character in White on a black, sable, or dark Ground, without an Authority in Writing for that Purpose from the said Governor and Company, to be produced and proved by the Party accused, or shall (without such Authority as aforesaid) use any such Plate, Wood, or other Material so engraved, cut, etched, scraped, or by any other Means or Device made, or shall use any other Instrument or Device for the making or printing upon any Paper or other Material, any Word or Words, Figure or Figures, Character or Characters, which shall be apparently intended to resemble the Whole

or

or any Part of any of the ſaid Notes or Bills of the ſaid Governor and Company, or any Word, Number, Figure, or Character in White on a black, ſable, or dark Ground; or if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall, from and after the Firſt Day of *Auguſt* One thouſand eight hundred and twelve, (without ſuch Authority as aforeſaid) knowingly have in his, her, or their Cuſtody, any ſuch Plate, Inſtrument, or Device, or ſhall knowingly and wilfully utter, publiſh, or diſpoſe of or put away any Paper or other Material containing any ſuch Word or Words, Figure or Figures, Character or Characters as aforeſaid, or ſhall knowingly or wittingly have in his, her, or their Cuſtody or Poſſeſſion, any Paper or other Material containing any ſuch Word or Words, Figure or Figures, Character or Characters as aforeſaid, (without lawful Excuſe, the Proof whereof ſhall lie upon the Perſon accuſed), every Perſon ſo offending in any of the Caſes aforeſaid, and being convicted thereof according to Law, ſhall be adjudged a Felon, and ſhall be tranſported for the Term of Fourteen Years.

Act not to apply to Paper herein deſcribed.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall apply to any Paper or Writing whatſoever (other than Papers or Writings reſembling ſuch Notes or Bills as aforeſaid), containing an Impreſſion from any Plate or Plates, or other Device whatſoever, with White Letters upon black, ſable, or dark Ground, which ſhall previous to the paſſing of this Act have been in the Cuſtody of any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever.

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