

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SECUNDO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XVI.

An Act for the more exemplary Puniſhment of Perſons deſtroying or injuring any Stocking or Lace Frames, or other Machines or Engines uſed in the Framework knitted Manufactory, or any Articles or Goods in ſuch Frames or Machines; to continue in force until the Firſt Day of *March* One thouſand eight hundred and fourteen.

[20th *March* 1812.]

WHEREAS the Proviſions of an Act of the Twenty-eighth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled *An Act for the better and more effectual Protection of Stocking Frames and the Machines or Engines annexed thereto or uſed therewith, and for the Puniſhment of Perſons deſtroying or injuring of ſuch Stocking Frames, Machines, or Engines, and the Framework knitted Pieces, Stockings, and other Articles and Goods uſed and made in the Hoſiery or Framework knitted Manufactory, or breaking or deſtroying any Machinery contained in any Mill or Mills uſed or any way employed in preparing or ſpinning of Wool or Cotton for the Uſe of the Stocking Frame*, have been found ineffectual: And whereas ſuch Outrages have for ſome Time paſt been carried on to an alarming Extent; it is therefore neceſſary that more effectual Proviſions ſhould be made againſt ſuch unlawful Practices, and for preventing ſuch Outrages, and bringing Offenders therein to exemplary Juſtice; and that ſuch Proviſions ſhould be extended to the Frame-work Lace Manufactory, againſt which ſimilar Outrages have been committed: 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 28 G. 3. c. 55.

Cutting or destroying Framework knitted Pieces, &c. or Machines used in such Manufacture, Felony

Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons shall, by Day or by Night, enter by Force into any House, Shop, or Place, with an Intent to cut or destroy any Framework knitted Pieces, Stockings, or Lace, or other Articles or Goods being in the Frame, or upon any Machine or Engine thereto annexed, or therewith to be used or prepared for that Purpose; or with an Intent to break, or destroy, any Frame, Machine, Engine, Tool, Instrument, or Utensil, used in and for the working and making of any such Framework Knitted Pieces, Stockings, Lace, or other Articles or Goods in the Hosiery or Framework Knitted Manufactory; or shall wilfully and maliciously, and without having the Consent or Authority of the Owner, destroy, or cut with an Intent to destroy or render useless, any Framework Knitted Pieces, Stockings, Lace, or other Articles or Goods, being in the Frame, or upon any Machine or Engine as aforesaid, or prepared for that Purpose; or shall wilfully and maliciously, and without having the Consent or Authority of the Owner, break, destroy, or damage with an Intent to destroy or render useless any Frame, Machine, Engine, Tool, Instrument or Utensil used in and for the working and making of any such Framework knitted Pieces, Stockings, Lace, or other Articles or Goods in the Hosiery or Framework knitted Stocking, or Framework Lace Manufactory; or shall wilfully and maliciously, and without having the Consent or Authority of the Owner, break or destroy any Machinery contained in any Mill or Mills used or any way employed in preparing or spinning of Wool or Cotton, or other Materials for the Use of the Stocking or Lace Manufactory, every Offender being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death, as in Cases of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Persons in whose House or Custody Frames, Machines, or Engines are destroyed, to give Notice to Owners, and go before a Magistrate.

II. And be it further enacted, That every Person in whose House or Custody or Possession any Frame, Machine or Engine, Tool, Instrument or Utensil, used in and for the working and making of any Framework knitted Pieces, Stockings, Lace, or other Articles or Goods in the Hosiery or Framework knitted Stocking, or Framework Lace Manufactory as aforesaid (not being his or her Property) shall be at the Time of the Destruction or damaging thereof, or of any Framework knitted Pieces, Stockings, Lace, or other Articles or Goods, being in the Frame, or upon any Machine or Engine as aforesaid, and who shall not, within Twenty-four Hours after he or she shall have known of such Destruction or Damage being committed as aforesaid, give Notice thereof to the Owner of such Frame, Machine, or Engine, Tool, Instrument or Utensil, as aforesaid, if residing within Twelve Miles, or if such Owner shall not reside within such Distance, then to some known Agent of such Owner, if any such Agent shall reside within the Distance of Twelve Miles; and also within Forty-eight Hours, go before some Justice of the Peace or Magistrate residing near the Place where such Destruction or Damage shall have taken place as aforesaid, to be examined upon Oath, as to every Matter or Thing relating to the committing of such Destruction and Damage, and his Knowledge thereof, and of all Particulars relating thereto, which may lead to the Discovery of the Offender therein, every such Person shall, for every such Neglect, be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanor; and every such Offender, being thereof lawfully convicted upon any Indictment or Information, may be punished as in Cases of Misdemeanor, by Fine and Imprisonment, at the Discretion of the Court in which he shall

be convicted; and every Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate before whom any ſuch Perſon ſhall ſo go, ſhall examine ſuch Perſon upon Oath (which Oath every ſuch Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate is hereby authorized to adminiſter) as to his Knowledge of ſuch Damage or Deſtruction, and of the Perſons committing the ſame, or of any Particulars which may lead to the Detection of the Offenders therein; and ſhall alſo allow the Owner of the Frame, Machine or Engine, Tool, Inſtrument, or Utenſil, as aforeſaid, or Agent if preſent, to put any Queſtion upon Oath to ſuch Perſon for the Diſcovery of the Offender; and if ſuch Owner or Agents ſhall not have had ſufficient Notice to be preſent when ſuch Perſon came before the Juſtice or Magiſtrate for Examination as aforeſaid, ſuch Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate ſhall, if required by the Owner or Agent aforeſaid, or if ſuch Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate ſhall deem it neceſſary, although no ſuch Requiſition ſhall be made, again call ſuch Perſon before him for Examination by the Owner or Agent aforeſaid; and every ſuch Perſon who ſhall neglect or refuſe (upon being ſummoned) to appear again before ſuch Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate, and be again examined as aforeſaid, ſhall be deemed guilty of a Miſdemeanor, and puniſhed as in Caſes of Miſdemeanors, at the Diſcretion of the Court in which he or ſhe ſhall be convicted.

Perjury to be puniſhed.

III. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon examined by or before any Juſtice of the Peace or Magiſtrate under this Act as aforeſaid, ſhall wilfully or corruptly ſwear any Matter or Thing which ſhall be falſe or untrue; or if any Perſon ſhall ſuborn or procure any Perſon to commit Perjury in any ſuch Examination, every ſuch Perſon ſo offending, and being thereof duly convicted, ſhall be and is hereby declared to be ſubject and liable to the like Pains and Penalties as are by Law inflicted upon Perſons committing Perjury, or guilty of Subornation of Perjury.

Act may be repealed this Seſſion.

IV. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed, by any Act or Acts to be paſſed in this Seſſion of Parliament.

Continuance of Act.

V. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall remain and continue in force until the Firſt Day of *March* One thouſand eight hundred and fourteen, and no longer.

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