ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUINTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CXX.

An Act to provide for the taking an Account of the Population of *Ireland*, and for the aſcertaining the Increaſe or Diminution thereof.

[28th *June* 1815.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to make Proviſion for the taking an Account of the Total Number of Perſons from Time to Time within that Part of the United Kingdom called *Ireland*; 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 ſuch Perſons as ſhall be for that Purpoſe appointed in the Manner herein-after mentioned to take the Accounts required by this Act, ſhall, at the Times and in the Manner herein-after directed, ſeverally take an Account of the Number of Perſons who ſhall be actually found, at the Time of taking ſuch Accounts, to be within the Limits of the ſeveral Pariſhes and Places within the ſeveral Counties, Counties of Cities, and Counties of Towns, in *Ireland* reſpectively, according to the Proviſions in this Act contained.

Account ſhall be taken of the Number of Perſons in Ireland, by Perſons to be appointed for that Purpoſe.

II. And for the more ſpeedy and effectually obtaining of ſuch Accounts, be it further enacted, That a ſufficient Number of printed Copies of this Act ſhall from Time to Time be delivered by His Majeſty's Printer in *Ireland*, to an Officer to be appointed by the Chief

Copies of this Act ſhall be delivered by the King's Printer to an

Officer to be appointed by the Chief Secretary, and by such Officer sent to the Clerks of the Peace, &c. for Distribution under this Act, with Forms of Account, &c.

Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, and which Officer such Chief Secretary is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint, for digesting and arranging the several Returns to be made pursuant to this Act, whenever the said Printer shall be required by the said Officer; and the said printed Copies shall, by the said Officer, be transmitted to the several Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks of the several and respective Counties, Counties of Cities, and Counties of Towns in *Ireland*; and Schedules of Instructions for carrying this Act into Execution, and Forms of the several Accounts and Returns required to be made by this Act, and of the Attestation of such Accounts and Returns, and of and for all other Matters and Things requisite for the Purpose of fully carrying into Execution the Purposes of this Act, shall be prepared by the said Officer under the Direction of such Chief Secretary; and printed Copies of such Instructions and Forms shall be transmitted by such Officer so to be appointed by such Chief Secretary, to the Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks in every County, County of a City, and County of a Town in *Ireland*, who shall distribute the same to the Chairman or Assistant Barrister in every County at large, and to the Recorder of every County of a City and County of a Town, and to the several Magistrates assembled in Sessions for the several Counties, Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns in *Ireland* respectively, and under their Direction to the several Persons to be appointed to carry this Act into effect in the several Parishes and Places in *Ireland*, in Manner herein-after mentioned; and the said Officer so to be appointed by such Chief Secretary, shall from Time to Time communicate with the said Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks, and with such Chairman, Assistant Barristers, Recorders, and Magistrates when necessary, in furtherance of the Purposes of this Act; and the said several Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks shall and they are hereby required to acknowledge the Receipt of this Act, and the said Schedule of Instructions, and other Forms; and shall with all convenient Speed cause the said Act, and the said Schedule of Instructions and other Forms, to be distributed in Manner directed by this Act, within their respective Limits.

Magistrates, on Precept of Chief Secretary, shall hold Special Sessions for appointing Persons in each Parish, &c. to take an Account of the Population therein, and to make Returns thereof to an Adjournment of such Sessions.

III. And be it further enacted, That the several Chairmen, or Assistant Barristers of the several Counties, and the Recorders of the several Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns in *Ireland*, together with the Bench of Magistrates in such Counties, Counties of Cities, and Counties of Towns respectively, upon receiving a Precept from the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* (which Precept such Chief Secretary is hereby authorized and empowered from Time to Time to issue, together with the Instructions for carrying the same into Effect) shall from Time to Time cause a Special Sessions of the Peace to be summoned and holden from Time to Time, for the Purposes of this Act, within their respective Counties, Counties of Cities, and Counties of Towns, within such Period and at such Times as shall be named in such Precept; and shall at the First Meeting of such Special Sessions name and appoint, according to such Instructions as shall accompany the Precept of the Chief Secretary as aforesaid, in and for each Parish within such County, County of a City or County of a Town, or in and for any Barony, Half Barony, Townland, District, Division, or Place within such County, County of a City or County of a Town, as to such Special Sessions shall seem fitting and practicable, One fit and proper Person, residing in each such Parish or

Barony, Half Barony, Townland, District, Division or Place respectively, as they shall in their Discretion think fit to appoint, for the Purpose of taking the Account required by this Act, and shall thereupon make out a List of the several Parishes or Baronies, Half Baronies, Townlands, Districts, Divisions and Places, in and for which Persons shall be so named and appointed, and the Christian and Surname of every such Person so named and appointed, and shall transmit such List to the Officer to be appointed by the Chief Secretary as aforesaid, and having so done, shall adjourn such Special Session, to such Day and Time as shall be directed and appointed by the Precept or Instructions of such Chief Secretary; and at such Adjourned Sessions, such Chairman or Assistant Barrister or Recorder, and Bench of Magistrates shall proceed, according to such Instructions as they may receive for that Purpose, to order and direct every such Person so appointed to take an Account in the several Parishes, or in the several Baronies, Half Baronies, Townlands, Districts, Divisions, or Places, respectively, of the several Matters and Things required by this Act, and to make a Return thereof to the said Sessions, at such Adjournment of such Sessions as shall be mentioned in such Order.

In case of Death, &c. of Person making Returns, Lord Lieutenant to appoint another.

IV. And be it further enacted, That in case any Person so to be appointed to take such Account shall happen to die without taking such Account and making such Returns as is required by this Act, for the Parish, District, or Place, for which such Person shall be so appointed, or if any such Person shall be incapable of acting, or shall neglect to act in the Execution of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, to appoint another fit and proper Person in the Room and Stead of the Person so dying or being incapable of acting or neglecting to act, and every such Person so appointed shall in all Respects perform the same Duties and have the same Powers, and be subject to the same Rules, Regulations, and Penalties, as the Person originally appointed, under or by virtue of this Act; and Notice of every such Appointment shall be given (by the Officer to be appointed by such Chief Secretary for the Purposes of this Act) to the Chairman, Assistant Barrister, or Recorder of the County, County of a City, or County of a Town, within which such Person shall be so appointed.

In what Manner the Persons so appointed shall take Account of the Population in each Parish, &c.

V. And be it further enacted, That all such Persons so appointed to take the Account required by this Act, whenever they shall consider it necessary, shall and may take to their Assistance and employ the Churchwardens, Constables, and other Peace Officers within each Parish, Barony, Townland, District, Division, or Place respectively, as also the Sub-Constables and other Persons employed in applotting and collecting the Grand Jury Assessments within the same respectively; which said several Persons are hereby required to be aiding and assisting herein; and all such Persons so appointed to take the Account required by this Act, in the several Parishes, Baronies, Half Baronies, Townlands, Divisions, Districts or Places respectively, shall, either by themselves, or with such Assistance as aforesaid, if they shall consider it necessary, within such Time as shall be directed by such Order of Sessions as aforesaid, proceed to take an Account of the Number of Persons at that Time within the Limits of the respective Parishes, Baronies, Half Baronies, Townlands, Districts, Divisions, or Places, in which they shall have been so as aforesaid appointed, and to inform themselves of all Particulars relating to the Matters of which

an Account is required to be given, according to the Form to be transmitted to them for that Purpoſe, by proceeding from Houſe to Houſe, and by continuing ſuch their Examination from Day to Day, without Interruption, or negligent or wilful Delay, until the ſame ſhall have been fully completed; and from ſuch Information as aforeſaid ſhall forthwith prepare an Anſwer or Return, containing all Matters of which an Account is required to be given, according to the Form to be tranſmitted to them for that Purpoſe; and ſuch Perſons ſo making ſuch Returns ſhall thereafter ſign the ſame, with their Names and ordinary Deſignations and Places of Abode, and ſhall atteſt the Correctneſs thereof on Oath before the Chairmen, or Aſſiſtant Barriſters in Counties, and before the Recorders in Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns and Bench of Magiſtrates reſpectively, at the Adjournment of the ſaid Quarter Seſſions to be ſpecially holden for that Purpoſe, at the Day and Time mentioned for that Purpoſe in the Order of the ſaid Seſſions; and the better to enable all ſuch Perſons to make ſuch Anſwers or Returns as aforeſaid, ſuch Perſons, and their ſaid Aſſiſtants and Perſons by them employed, are hereby authorized and empowered to aſk all ſuch Queſtions of all Perſons within the reſpective Pariſhes, Baronies, Half Baronies, Townlands, Diſtricts, Diviſions, and Places, in which they ſhall take the Accounts required by this Act, reſpecting themſelves, and the Number, Age, and Occupation of the Perſons conſtituting their reſpective Families, as ſhall be neceſſary for ſtating the Particulars required to be ſtated concerning them, in the Anſwers and Returns aforeſaid; and that every ſuch Perſon refuſing to anſwer, or wilfully giving a falſe Anſwer to ſuch Queſtions, or any of them, ſhall for every ſuch Refuſal or falſe Anſwer, on Proof thereof being made before any Juſtice of the Peace of the County in which ſuch Perſons ſhall reſide, on the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, forfeit a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds nor leſs than Forty Shillings, at the Diſcretion of the ſaid Juſtice before whom the Complaint thereof ſhall have been ſo made.

Accounts and Returns ſhall be tranſmitted to the Chief Secretary, and an Abſtract prepared and laid before Parliament every Seſſion.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the ſeveral original Accounts ſo taken in Writing, and atteſted as aforeſaid by the Perſons ſo appointed as aforeſaid, together with all Anſwers and Returns prepared thereupon, ſhall be from Time to Time tranſmitted by the Chairman or Aſſiſtant Barriſters of Counties, and Recorders of Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns, within One Calendar Month after the Receipt of the ſame, to the Office of the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, a Copy thereof having been previouſly made by the ſeveral Clerks of the Peace of the Counties, and Town Clerks of the Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns, wherein they were reſpectively taken, and lodged among the County Records; and which Copies ſuch Clerks of the Peace and Town Clerks are hereby ſtrictly required and enjoined to make or cauſe to be made, and ſafely to keep and preſerve in their reſpective Offices, and to deliver over to their Succeſſors in Office reſpectively; and that ſuch Accounts, Anſwers, and Returns ſo tranſmitted to the Office of ſuch Chief Secretary, ſhall be digeſted and reduced into order by ſuch Officer as ſuch Chief Secretary ſhall from Time to Time appoint for the Purpoſe; and that an Abſtract thereof ſhall be from Time to Time laid before both Houſes of Parliament.

VII. And

VII. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases wherein Returns shall not be made in pursuance of any Precept from the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, pursuant to the Provisions of this Act, or where it shall appear that the Returns made are defective or inaccurate, and whenever it shall seem expedient to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the Time being, that Returns should be made under this Act, it shall and may be lawful for such Chief Secretary for the Time being to issue his Precept to the Chairman or Assistant Barrister of any of the Counties in *Ireland*, or to the Recorder of any Counties of Cities, or Counties of Towns in *Ireland*, forthwith to proceed to cause due Returns to be made in any County, County of a City or Town, or in all or any Parish or Parishes, or Place or Places named and specified in such Precept, under the Provisions and Powers of this Act. In case of Neglect or Deficiency of Returns, &c. Chief Secretary may direct his Precept for New Returns.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That there shall be paid and allowed, for the Trouble and Expence of the several Persons employed in the Transactions aforesaid, for the Returns which shall be so made pursuant to the Directions aforesaid, the Sums following; that is to say, to the Clerk of the Peace or Town Clerk, for every Return which shall be made, and a Copy thereof lodged in his Office, the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence, and also a further Sum not exceeding Sixpence for every Seventy-two Words and Figures contained in every such Return; and to the several Persons so to be appointed to take the Accounts, and make the Returns required by this Act, a reasonable Compensation, to be estimated by the Chairman or Assistant Barrister and Bench of Magistrates in Counties, and by the Recorders and Magistrates in Counties of Cities and Towns; and that such Compensation shall be calculated according to the Nature of the Work performed, and the Quantity of Time employed, to which shall also be added the Expences (if any) incurred by every such Person in the Execution of this Act; and that such Work and Services shall be duly certified by the Chairman and Assistant Barrister of Counties, and Recorders of Counties of Cities and Counties of Towns, and the Bench of Magistrates in each of the said Counties respectively, and shall also be approved of by the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, for the Time being; and it shall and may be lawful for the Collectors of Excise in their respective Districts in *Ireland*, to pay such Sum or Sums of Money so certified and approved as aforesaid to the Parties producing such Certificate and Approbation, and also to pay all such other Sum and Sums of Money as shall appear to such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors to be requisite and necessary, and as he or they shall order to be paid for any reasonable Expences incurred by any Person in the Execution of this Act, to such Persons as shall produce such Order, and all Sums so paid by such Collectors of Excise shall be allowed them in their Accounts. Compensation to Parties employed in Execution of this Act.

IX. And be it further enacted, That all Letters and Packets containing the Accounts of Returns of Population as aforesaid, and all other Communications relative to this Act, coming to or from the Officer so to be from Time to Time appointed by the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* as aforesaid, shall be carried and conveyed by Means of His Majesty's Post Office, and delivered without Postage, or any Charge being paid or payable for the same. Packets shall be free of Postage.

Penalty on Officers, &c. for Neglect or Falſification in Execution of this Act.

X. And be it further enacted, That every Perſon ſo to be appointed as aforeſaid, to take the Accounts required by this Act, and every Churchwarden, Conſtable, Peace Officer, Sub-Conſtable, or other Perſon whatever required to aſſiſt in the Execution of this Act, who ſhall wilfully neglect or refuſe to act in Execution of this Act, or ſhall make any wilful Default or Falſification in any of the Matters required of them reſpectively in this Act, ſhall for every ſuch wilful Neglect, Default, or Falſification, forfeit a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds nor leſs than Forty Shillings, at the Diſcretion of any Juſtice of the Peace within his Juriſdiction, before whom ſuch Perſon ſhall be convicted of ſuch Offence, on the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes; and that the ſeveral Forfeitures and Penalties inflicted by this Act ſhall, if not immediately paid, be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by virtue of a Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any Juſtice of the Peace having Juriſdiction where ſuch Offender ſhall dwell, rendering to the ſaid Offender the Overplus (if any) after the Charges of ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale ſhall be deducted; and in caſe ſuch ſufficient Diſtreſs ſhall not be found, then it ſhall be lawful for ſuch Juſtice to commit ſuch Offender to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for a Term not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unleſs the ſaid Forfeiture and Charges ſhall be ſooner paid; and the ſaid Forfeitures ſhall be paid One Moiety to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Collector of Excife for the Diſtrict wherein the ſaid Offence ſhall be committed, to be by him applied in Aid of the Expenditure incurred by reaſon of this Act.

Recovery and Application of Penalties.

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