ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUINTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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ment, and alſo Mails of Letters, and Paſſengers, between this Country, *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Eaſt Indies*; and that from and after the Eſtabliſhment of ſuch Veſſels, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for His Majeſty's Poſtmaſter General, and his Deputy and Deputies, to and for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive and take, for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by ſuch Veſſels from the Port of *London*, or from any other Port in *Great Britain*, to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, or to any Port or Place within the Limits of the Charter of the United Company of Merchants of *England* trading to *The Eaſt Indies*, (ſave and except the Dominions of the Emperor of *China*) according to the Rates and Sums, in Sterling Money, herein after mentioned, the ſame being rated either by the Letter or by the Ounce; (that is to ſay),

Rates of Poſtage.

For every Single Letter, Three Shillings and Sixpence:
For every Double Letter, Seven Shillings:
For every Treble Letter, Ten Shillings and Sixpence:
And for every Ounce in Weight, Fourteen Shillings; and ſo in Proportion for Letters and Packets above the Weight of an Ounce:

And for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by ſuch Veſſels from any Port or Place in *The Eaſt Indies*, within the Limits of the ſaid United Company's Charter (ſave and except the Dominions of the Emperor of *China*), or from *The Cape of Good Hope*, or *The Mauritius*, to the Port of *London*, or to any other Port in *Great Britain*, the Rates and Duties following; (that is to ſay),

For every Single Letter, Three Shillings and Sixpence:
For every Double Letter, Seven Shillings:
For every Treble Letter, Ten Shillings and Sixpence:
And for every Ounce in Weight, Fourteen Shillings; and ſo in Proportion for Letters and Packets above the Weight of an Ounce:

And for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by ſuch Veſſels between *The Cape of Good Hope*, or *The Mauritius*, and any Part of the Continent of *Aſia*, and between *The Cape of Good Hope*, or *The Mauritius*, or the Continent of *Aſia*, and all intermediate Places, and between all the intermediate Places reſpectively, the Rates and Duties following; (that is to ſay),

For every Single Letter, One Shilling and Nine-pence:
For every Double Letter, Three Shillings and Sixpence:
For every Treble Letter, Five Shillings and Three-pence:
And for every Ounce in Weight, Seven Shillings; and ſo in Proportion for Letters and Packets above the Weight of an Ounce.

Rates for Newſpapers, &c.

II. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Perſon or Perſons to ſend and receive by any Mails diſpatched to and from *The Eaſt Indies*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Cape of Good Hope*, any Newſpapers or printed Prices Current, and alſo any printed Papers liable to the Stamp Duties, and duly ſtamped, paying for the ſame Three-pence for each Packet, not exceeding One Ounce; and for each Packet exceeding One

One Ounce, at the Rate of Three-pence *per* Ounce; and provided that the ſame be ſent in Covers open at the Sides or Ends.

Mails may be carried by Ships of War.

III. And, inaſmuch as it may on ſome Occaſions be of Advantage to Correſpondence, that Letters and Packets ſhould be ſent to and from *The Eaſt Indies* and *The Cape of Good Hope*, by His Majeſty's Ships of War and Store Ships, and by the Ships in the Service of the ſaid United Company ſailing between this Country and *India* and *The Cape of Good Hope*, and by Ships employed in the Private Trade to and from *India*; be it therefore further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Poſtmaſter General in his Diſcretion, by and with the Conſent of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, to make up and ſend Mails of Letters to and from any Port or Place in *The Eaſt Indies*, within the Limits of the ſaid United Company's Charter (ſave and except the Dominions of the Emperor of *China*), and to and from *The Cape of Good Hope*, by any of His Majeſty's Ships of War and Store Ships, or by any of the Ships in the Service of the ſaid United Company, or by Ships employed in the Private Trade to and from *India*; and that when and ſo often as Mails of Letters ſhall be ſo conveyed, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Poſtmaſter General and his Deputies, for the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, to demand, have, receive and take the ſame Rates and Duties, as if the Letters were conveyed by Veſſels or Packet Boats, to be eſtabliſhed under the Authority of this Act.

Commanders authorized to receive Mails.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Commander of any ſuch Ship of War, with the Conſent and Permiſſion of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, and the Commander of any ſuch Ship in the Service of the ſaid United Company, with the Conſent of the ſaid Company, and the Commander of any Ship employed in the Private Trade to and from *India*, with the Conſent of his Owners, is hereby authorized and required to receive on board his Ship, ſuch Mails of Letters and Packets, and to convey and deliver the ſame accordingly; and ſuch Commanders reſpectively ſhall not incur or be liable to any Penalty for receiving on board or conveying ſuch Letters and Packets in Manner aforeſaid; any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithſtanding.

The Eaſt India Company not to charge Poſtage, except for Inland, &c.

V. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid United Company, or the Commander of any Ship in the Service of the ſaid Company, or any Commander of any Ship in the Private Trade to and from *India*, to charge, demand, or receive any Rate or Rates of Poſtage for any Mails of Letters, other and except any ſuch Poſtage as may be legally due to the ſaid Company for the Inland Poſtage, or conveyance of any ſuch Letters in *India*, or for any ſealed Bags, Packages, or Parcels of Letters, which may at any Time be forwarded by the Poſtmaſter General, by the Ships of the ſaid United Company, or by any ſuch Private Ship.

Poſtmaſter General to pay the Company for Conveyance of Mails.

VI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the Poſtmaſter General, whenever the Ships of the ſaid United Company, or any Private Ships, are employed as Packets, to pay the ſaid United Company, and the Owners of any ſuch Private Ships, for the Freight or Conveyance of any ſuch Mails of Letters, ſuch reaſon-

able Sum, and in such Manner, as shall be authorized and directed by the Lords of the Treasury, or any Three of them.

A Mail to be made up Monthly for India.

VII. And be it further enacted, That a Mail shall be made up and dispatched to *India* once in every Month, as far as may be found practicable, either by the Vessels to be established and hired by the Postmaster General under the Authority of this Act, or by a Ship of War, or a Ship in the Service of the *East India* Company, or by a Ship employed in the Private Trade to and from *India*.

Goods allowed to be carried in Packets.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Postmaster General, in such Proportions and in such Manner as the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or any Three or more of them, shall by Warrant in Writing direct (any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding), to permit the Exportation on Freight, or on account of the Owners, or of the Public Service, in such Vessels or Packet Boats navigated according to Law, from the Port of *London*, or any Port or Ports within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, or any intermediate Port between *Great Britain* and *The East Indies*, to all Ports and Places within the Limits of the Charter of the said United Company, and to the Islands of *Saint Helena*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Cape of Good Hope* (save and except the Dominions of the Emperor of *China*) any Goods, Wares, and Merchandize (Tea excepted) which can now or may at any Times hereafter be legally exported; and also to permit the Importation on Freight, or on account of the Owners, or of the Public Service, in such Vessels or Packet Boats navigated according to Law, from all Ports and Places within the Limits of the said United Company's Charter, and from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and the Island of *Saint Helena* (save and except as aforesaid) into the Port of *London*, or any Port in *Great Britain*, of any Goods, Wares, and Merchandize which are now or may at any Time or Times hereafter be legally imported; subject nevertheless to the several Restrictions, Conditions, and Limitations in this Act contained.

Except Tea.

Quantity of Tea on board limited.

IX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to ship, carry, or put on board, or permit or suffer to be shipped, carried, or put on board such Vessels or Packet Boats, and any Ships or Vessels legally trading to and from *The East Indies*, such Quantity of Tea as shall be requisite for the Use of the Crew of any such Ship, during the Voyage, not exceeding Two Pounds for each Man on board; and in case there shall be found on board any such Ships or Vessels as aforesaid, on their Arrival at any Port or Place in the *British* Islands, or within Two hundred Miles of the same, any Tea exceeding in Quantity One hundred Pounds Weight, every Commander shall incur and be liable to a Penalty of Two Pounds for every Pound Weight of Tea exceeding such a Quantity.

No Goods to be carried but in Vessels of 350 Tons and upwards.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful to export or import any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize in any Vessel or Packet Boat to be employed under the Authority of this Act, unless such Vessel or Packet Boat shall be of the Burthen of Three hundred and fifty Tons at the least

XI. And

Penalty on Persons delaying Sailing after receiving the Mail, 500 l.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any Commander of any Veſſel or Packet Boat to be eſtabliſhed under the Authority of this Act, having received His Majeſty's Mail on board, and having received his Clearance, ſhall wilfully neglect to ſail and proceed on his Voyage within Twenty-four Hours after the Time of receiving the Mail on board and his Clearance (Wind and Weather permitting), or ſhall wilfully deviate from the Courſe of his Voyage, ſuch Commander for every ſuch Neglect ſhall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five hundred Pounds: Provided always, that it ſhall be lawful for the Court of Directors of the ſaid United *Eaſt India* Company to give Directions to delay the Sailing of any Ship or Veſſel belonging to and employed by the ſaid Company, for a Time to be limited or ſpecified, giving Notice of ſuch Directions to the Poſtmaſter General within Twenty-four Hours thereof.

Rates of Letters conveyed in Veſſels not employed as Packets from Great Britain.

XII. And be it further enacted, That for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by Veſſels not employed as Packets from *Great Britain* to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Eaſt Indies*, there ſhall be charged and payable a Sea Poſtage of One Shilling and Two-pence a Single Letter, and ſo in Proportion for Packets; ſuch Poſtage to be paid on Delivery of the Letters at *The Cape*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Eaſt Indies*, as the Caſe may be.

Penalty on Perſons ſending or conveying Letters to India without Authority.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon ſhall ſend without Authority of the Poſtmaſter General to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, or *The Eaſt Indies*, any Letter or Packet, or if any Commander of any Ship or Veſſel, or any other Perſon ſhall carry or convey any Letter or Packet without ſuch Authority to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, or *The Eaſt Indies*, every ſuch Perſon ſo offending ſhall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds for every Letter ſo ſent or conveyed.

Commanders of Veſſels to take Charge of the Bags of Letters delivered by Order of the Poſtmaſter.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the Commander of any Ship ſailing to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, or *The Eaſt Indies*, is hereby authorized and required to take charge of and convey any Bags of Letters ſubject to the aforeſaid Rate of One Shilling and Two-pence, which ſhall be delivered to him by Order or Authority of the Poſtmaſter General.

An Allowance of 2d. for each Letter to be paid ſuch Commanders.

XV. And for the Services performed by the Commanders of ſuch Veſſels, be it further enacted, That they ſhall be entitled to receive on their Arrival in Port, either in *Great Britain* or in *India*, on delivering at the Poſt Office all ſuch Letters and Packets which they ſhall have on board, the Sum of Two-pence for every Letter or Packet which he or they ſhall ſo deliver.

Rates of Letters by Veſſels not employed as Packets from India.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That for the Port and Conveyance of all and every the Letters and Packets that ſhall be carried or conveyed by Veſſels not employed as Packets from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The Eaſt Indies* to *Great Britain*, there ſhall be charged and payable a Sea Poſtage of Eight-pence for each Single Letter, and ſo in Proportion for Packets.

Rate of Sea Poſtage from India not to

XVII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That for Twelve Months from and after the paſſing of this Act, no Letter or Packet of whatever

exceed 5s. for any Packet of whatever Weight.

whatever Weight or Deſcription coming from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *Mauritius*, or *India*, ſhall be chargeable with a higher Rate of Sea Poſtage than Five Shillings for ſuch Letter or Packet, any Thing to the contrary in this Act contained notwithſtanding.

Poſt Offices to be eſtabliſhed.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Poſtmaſter General in his Diſcretion, to eſtabliſh Poſt Offices, and appoint Deputy Poſtmaſters and other Officers, for the due Execution of this Act, in the United Kingdom, and in any of the Preſidencies of the ſaid United Company, and the ſame from Time to Time to remove and diſplace, and others to appoint in their Stead; and that all ſuch Perſons ſo to be appointed ſhall give Security to the Satisfaction of the Poſtmaſter General or his Agents for the due Diſcharge of their reſpective Duties, and accounting for and paying unto the Treaſurers of the ſaid United Company, at their reſpective Preſidencies, on account of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, all Sums which they ſhall reſpectively receive for the Port of Letters and Packets, or in any other Manner whatſoever; and that no ſuch Poſtmaſter or other Perſon ſhall at any Time retain in his Hands more than One thouſand Pounds of the Public Money.

Treaſurers of the Company to remit Money to Poſtmaſter General.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That the Treaſurers of the ſaid United Company, at their reſpective Preſidencies, ſhall and they are hereby authorized and required to receive all ſuch Sums, and from Time to Time to remit the ſame to the Poſtmaſter General, in ſuch Manner and under ſuch Regulations as ſhall be agreed upon by the ſaid United Company and the Poſtmaſter General.

Preſident of the Board of Commiſſioners to ſend and receive Letters free from India. Secretary of State and the Treaſury, from The Cape, &c.

XX. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the Preſident of the Board of Commiſſioners for the Affairs of *India* for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets to and from *The Eaſt Indies* free from the Duties of Poſtage; and that it ſhall be lawful for the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, and the Secretaries to the Treaſury for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets to and from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *Ceylon*, free from the Duty of Poſtage.

Commiſſioners for the Affairs of India and Secretary to ſend and receive Letters free to and from India and The Cape.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Commiſſioners for the Affairs of *India*, receiving Salaries in virtue of ſuch Office, and for the Secretary to the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Time being, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets to or from any Port or Place within the Limits of the Charter of the *Eaſt India* Company, or *The Cape of Good Hope*, provided that the Letters and Packets ſo to be ſent and received by ſuch Commiſſioners or Secretary, by any one Packet or other Veſſel, appointed to carry the Mail, do not collectively exceed the Weight of Five Ounces received, and Five Ounces ſent, by each ſuch Commiſſioners or by ſuch Secretary.

Chairman and Deputy Chairman to ſend and receive Letters free from India.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the ſaid United Company for the Time being, and for One Year after the ſaid Chairman and Deputy Chairman ſhall have quitted their reſpective Offices, to ſend and receive Letters and Packets free from Poſtage, to and from *The Eaſt Indies* only; provided

that such Letters and Packets shall be upon the Concerns of the said Company only, and provided that such Letters shall be addressed or superscribed wholly in the Hand Writing of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, and his Name added thereto in his Hand Writing; and also, that it shall be lawful for the Directors of the said Company to send and receive Letters and Packets to and from *The East Indies* only, addressed and superscribed in like Manner, free from Postage for One Year from and after the passing of this Act, and no longer.

Directors may send and receive Letters free from India by the Ships of the Company.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Directors of the said Company for the Time being, to send and receive Letters and Packets free from Postage to and from *The East Indies* only, by the Ships of the said Company, provided that such Letters so to be sent and received do not collectively exceed the Weight of Five Ounces by each Ship of the said Company; and that such Directors shall and may continue to send and receive such Letters and Packets for One Year after he or they shall have quitted the Direction.

Public Officers who now send and receive Letters free, to have the same Privilege to and from India.

XXIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to prevent such public Officers who now send and receive Letters and Packets free of Postage, from sending and receiving Letters and Packets to and from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *Mauritius*, *Saint Helena*, and *The East Indies*, in the same Manner as they are now authorized by Law to send and receive Letters and Packets free from Postage.

Seamen and Soldiers serving in the East Indies, to have the Privilege granted by 46 G. 3. c. 92. of sending and receiving Letters free, on certain Conditions.

XXV. And whereas, by a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the Forty-sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend Three Acts made in the Thirty-fifth, Forty-first, and Forty-second Years of His present Majesty, relating to the Conveyance of Letters and Packets by the Post*, Seamen employed in His Majesty's Navy and Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, within any Part of His Majesty's Dominions, whilst actually employed in His Majesty's Service, were authorized to send and receive by the Post on his or their private Concerns only, Single Letters, upon Payment of One Penny for each Letter, under the several Restrictions in the said Act contained: And whereas it is expedient to extend the Provisions of the said Act to Seamen in the Navy, whilst actually employed in His Majesty's Service in *The East Indies*, and to Non-commissioned Officers in His Majesty's Army, whilst actually employed in His Majesty's Service in *The East Indies*, and also to the Seamen and Non-commissioned Officers in the Army actually employed in the Service of the *East India* Company; be it therefore further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall and may be lawful to and for each and every Seaman employed in His Majesty's Navy within any Part of *The East Indies*, and to and for every Serjeant, Corporal, Drummer, Trumpeter, Fifer and Private Soldier in His Majesty's Regular Forces, Militia, Fencible Regiments, Artillery or Royal Marines, whilst actually employed in His Majesty's Service in *The East Indies*, and also to and for every Seaman, whilst actually employed in the Service of the *East India* Company, and to and for every Serjeant, Corporal, Drummer, Trumpeter, Fifer, and Private Soldier in the Service of the said Company, whilst actually employed in the Service of the said Company, and not otherwise, to receive by the Post, on his own private Concerns only, free from Postage,

Single

Single Letters; provided that the ſeveral Regulations and Reſtrictions contained in the ſaid herein-before recited Act ſhall be complied with; and likewiſe to ſend Single Letters by the Poſt, on his own private Concerns only, on Payment of One Penny upon putting the ſame into any Poſt Office, under the ſeveral Regulations and Reſtrictions in the herein-before recited Act contained.

Powers of recited Act, extended to this Act.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Clauſes, Powers, Advantages, Penalties, and Methods for the Recovery of the ſame, contained in the ſaid recited Act, ſo far as relates to Soldiers and Seamen's Letters, ſhall be applied and extended, and ſhall be conſtrued to apply and extend to this preſent Act, as fully and effectually to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if the ſame had been particularly repeated and re-enacted in this preſent Act.

Rates for the Conveyance of Letters by Veſſels not employed as Packets, &c. granted by 54 G. 3. c. 169. repealed.

XXVII. And whereas it is expedient to alter and amend an Act paſſed in the Fifty-fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent moſt Gracious Majeſty, intituled *An Act for making certain Regulations reſpecting the Poſtage of Ship Letters, and of Letters in* Great Britain; be it therefore further enacted, That ſo much of the ſaid Act as authorizes the Poſtmaſter General to take a Rate of Sixpence a Letter for Single Letters, and ſo on in Proportion for Letters brought by Veſſels other than Packet Boats from Places within His Majeſty's Dominions, and from Kingdoms and Countries beyond the Seas into *Great Britain*, and as authorizes Perſons in Places within His Majeſty's Dominions and Countries beyond the Seas to receive from the Maſters of Veſſels coming from thence into *Great Britain*, Letters and Packets which may be collected and brought by ſuch Maſters to them for the Purpoſes in the ſaid Act mentioned, and to receive from ſuch Maſters at the Rate of Three Shillings for every Fifty Letters or Packets, and ſo in Proportion for a greater or leſſer Number, and as directs the Manner in which ſuch Letters are to be tranſmitted by ſuch Maſters of Veſſels to *Great Britain*; and ſo much of the ſaid Act as authorizes the Maſters of Veſſels to collect Letters and Packets within His Majeſty's Dominions and Countries beyond the Seas, for the Purpoſes in the ſaid Act mentioned, and which directs the Sum of Three Shillings for every Fifty Letters, and ſo in Proportion for a greater or leſſer Number, to be repaid to ſuch Maſters, and as authorizes the Payment of Two-pence for every Letter to ſuch Maſters; and alſo ſo much of the ſaid Act as impoſes a Penalty of Five hundred Pounds upon any Maſter who ſhall open any Bag or Bags of Letters, or who ſhall take out of ſuch Bag any Letter or Letters, or ſhall not duly deliver ſuch Bag at the Place where he ſhall arrive; and likewiſe ſo much of the ſaid Act as impoſes a Penalty of Five Pounds upon any Perſon ſending any Letter or Packet by any Ship or Veſſel of which he ſhall not be Owner, without having the official Mark of the Poſtage having been paid thereon, and as impoſes a like Penalty upon any Maſter having on board or carrying any Letter not being the Letter of his Owners, without ſuch official Mark thereon; and ſo much of the ſaid Act as authorizes the Collector, Comptroller, or principal Officers of the Cuſtoms, to ſearch Ships or Veſſels for Letters or Packets, and to ſeize and forward the ſame to the Poſtmaſter General; and alſo ſo much of the ſaid Act as authorizes ſuch Collector, Comptroller, or Officer to adminiſter an Oath to ſuch Maſter, that he has not any Letters which have not paid the Rates of Poſtage on board his Ship or Veſſel, not being the Letters of the Owners of his ſaid

Ship; and likewise so much of the said Act as directs, that on the Arrival of any Ship in Port, the Master shall sign a Declaration that, to the best of his Knowledge and Belief, he has delivered all the Letters, Bags or Parcels of Letters on board his Vessel, and as imposes a Penalty of Fifty Pounds upon any Master neglecting or refusing to make such Declaration; and likewise so much of the said Act as imposes a Penalty of Twenty Pounds upon any such Collector, Comptroller, or principal Officer who shall permit any Ship or Vessel to break Bulk until the Requisites of the Act shall be complied with; and so much of the said Act as directs the Mode of recovering the pecuniary Penalties by the said Act imposed, and the Application of the same; and also so much of the said Act as renders Persons guilty of a Misdemeanor who shall forge or cause to be forged any Stamp, Mark or Postage, or Designation upon any Letter, with Intent to avoid the Payment of the Rate of Postage, shall, from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and fifteen, be and the same are hereby repealed.

Letters brought by Vessels not Packets, (except from India, &c.), to pay 8d. for a Single Letter, and Masters of Vessels allowed 2d.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to, and for the Postmaster General to demand, have, receive, and take for every Letter which shall be brought by Ships and Vessels (other than Packet Boats) from Places within His Majesty's Dominions, and from any the Kingdoms and Places beyond the Seas, into *Great Britain*, except from *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The East Indies*, a Sea Postage of Eight-pence for every Single Letter, and so in Proportion for Packets, in addition to any Inland or Internal Postage which may arise upon the Inland Conveyance of such Letters and Packets; and for the Encouragement of the Masters of such Ships or Vessels, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to allow all such Masters the Sum of Two-pence a Letter or Packet upon all such Letters and Packets as they respectively, on their Arrival from Parts beyond the Seas, shall deliver unto the Deputy or Deputies of the Postmaster General, for such Place or Post Town at which they shall touch or arrive.

Penalty on Persons opening Bags 200l.

XXIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any Master of any Ship or Vessel shall open any sealed Bag, Package, or Parcel of Letters, with which he shall have been entrusted, or shall take out of such Bag, Package, or Parcel any Letter or Letters whatsoever, or shall not duly deliver such Bag, Package, or Parcel with the Letters at the Post Office on his Arrival in Port, without wilful or unavoidable Delay after his Arrival, every such Master so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Two hundred Pounds.

Owners may send Letters on board their own Vessels to India, &c. free from Sea Postage, on certain Conditions.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Owners, Charterers, or Consignees of Vessels, to send their Letters on board their own Ships, from any Port in *Great Britain* to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The East Indies*, free from the Sea Postage; provided that such Letters shall be endorsed with the Words "Owners or Charterers or Consignees Letter," and the Christian and Surname, and Place of Abode, of the Owner, Charterer, or Consignee, or the Firm of the Owners who shall be the Writer of the same; and provided that the Letter so sent and endorsed by any Owner or Owners, Charterer, or Consignee, or the whole Number of Letters if there shall be more than One Letter from such Owner or Owners, Charterer, or Consignee, shall not collectively exceed the Weight of Twenty Ounces.

XXXI. And

Owners or Shippers of Goods may do the same.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Owners or Shippers of Goods to send Letters with their Goods on board any Ship or Vessel from any Port in *Great Britain* to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, and *The East Indies*, free from the Ship Letter Postage; provided that such Letter shall be endorsed with the Christian and Surname of the Writer, or the Firm of the Writers, and with the Words "Owners or Shippers of Goods" shipped on board the [*state the Name of the Ship*] bound to [*state the Place*]; and provided the Letter or Packet of any such Owners or Shippers, or the whole Number of Letters, if there shall be more than One from such Owners or Shippers, shall not collectively exceed the Weight of Six Ounces.

Owners of Vessels may receive Letters in like Manner,

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Owners, Charterers, or Consignees of Vessels resident in *Great Britain*, to receive their Letters by their own Vessels from any Place within His Majesty's Dominions, or Countries beyond the Seas, free from the Sea Postage; provided that such Owners, Charterers, or Consignees shall be described as such in the Address and Superscription of such Letters; and that such Letters to any One Owner, Charterer, or Consignee, shall not, if coming from any Place in *The East Indies*, exceed collectively the Weight of Twenty Ounces; and if coming from any other Part beyond the Seas, exceed collectively the Weight of Six Ounces.

as also Owners or Consignees of Goods.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Owners or Consignees of Goods on board Ships arriving from Abroad to receive Letters free from the Sea Postage by such Ships, provided that such Owners or Consignees shall be described as such in the Address and Superscription thereof; and provided it shall appear by the Ship's Manifest that such Persons actually have Goods on board such Ships, and that the Letter or Letters addressed to any One such Owner or Consignee shall not collectively exceed the Weight of Six Ounces.

Act not to affect Letters of Owners, &c. of Vessels arriving before Oct. 10, 1816.

XXXIV. Provided always, That nothing in this Act shall extend to prevent the Letters of Owners, Consignees, or Freighters of Ships arriving in this County from *The East Indies* before the Tenth Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and sixteen, to receive their Letters free of Postage as heretofore, although they may exceed the Weight herein limited, or may not be marked as directed by this Act.

Letters from the Governor of Ceylon, &c. to the Agents of their Governments, not to be chargeable with Postage.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this, or in any other Act contained, shall extend to charge with the Duty of Postage any Letters or Packets addressed by the Governors of His Majesty's Settlements of *Ceylon*, *The Cape of Good Hope*, or *The Mauritius*, or by the Secretaries of these Governments respectively, to the Agents of those respective Governments residing in *England*, or by such Agents to such Governors or Secretaries: Provided always, that the Contents of such Letters and Packets relate *bonâ fide* to the Public Service, or Concerns of such Governments, and that they are superscribed by such Governor, Secretary, or Agent respectively.

Owners Letters exceeding the

XXXVI. And be it further enacted, That in case any Collector, Comptroller or other Officer of His Majesty's Customs, find any Letter or Letters superscribed as the Letters of such Owners, Charterers, Consignees, or

Shippers,

Shippers, exceeding the Number or Weight limited by this Act, then it shall and may be lawful for such Collector, Comptroller or other Officer to seize so many of the Letters as shall reduce the Remainder within the proper Weight, and shall take the same to the nearest Post Office, and the Postmaster of the Place shall pay to the Officer delivering the same at the Rate of Two Shillings and Sixpence for each Letter or Packet so seized. Weight allowed may be seized and carried to the Post Office.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted, That the Rates of Postage for the Conveyance of Letters and Packets by Packet Boats, or Ships or Vessels employed as Packet Boats, to any Part of His Majesty's Dominions and Countries beyond the Seas, excepting *The East Indies*, shall and may with the Consent of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or any Three of them, either be received at the Post Office in *Great Britain*, upon forwarding the same, or by the Deputy or Deputies of the Postmaster General upon their Delivery. Rates of Postage for Conveyance of Letters to Places beyond the Seas (except to India) may be received at the Post Office.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Collector, Comptroller, or other Officer of His Majesty's Customs, at any Port or Place whatsoever, and he is hereby authorized to require a Declaration from any Commander of any Ship or Vessel sailing to *The Cape of Good Hope*, *The Mauritius*, or *The East Indies*, that he has not nor will take any Letters on board his Ship which have not been delivered to him by Authority of the Postmaster General, or which are not exempted from Postage by this Act; which Declaration shall be in the Form or to the Effect following: Commanders of Vessels having Letters on board to take the following

'I *A. B.* Commander of the [*state the Name of the Ship or Vessel*], bound to [*state the Place*] do, as required by Law, solemnly declare, That I have not to the best of my Knowledge and Belief on board my Ship or Vessel, nor will I take any Letters which have not been delivered to me by Authority of the Postmaster General, or which are not exempted from Postage.' Declaration.

And in case any such Commander shall make a false or untrue Declaration he shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds. Penalty 50*l.*

XXXIX. And be it further enacted, That on the Arrival of any Ship or Vessel in any Port where there is a Post Office, or at the Port of its Destination, the Master shall immediately send to the same all the Bags, Packages, or Parcels of Letters, and all other Letters on board his Ship, and shall, to the utmost of his Power, procure all his Crew and Passengers to send any Letters which may be in their Possession, except such Letters as are exempted by this Act; and the Master shall at the same Time, or at the Port or Place where the Ship or Vessel shall report, sign a Declaration in the Presence of the Person authorized by the Postmaster General at the Port or Place, who shall also sign the same: Which Declaration shall be in the Form, or to the Effect following; that is to say, Bags of Letters to be delivered on their Arrival.

'I *A. B.* Commander of the [*state the Name of the Ship or Vessel*] arrived from [*state the Place*] do, as required by Law, solemnly declare, That I have, to the best of my Knowledge and Belief, delivered or caused to be delivered at the Post Office at [*state the Place*] every Letter, Bag, Package, or Parcel of Letters that were on board the [*state the Name of the Ship*] except such Letters as are exempted by this Act.' Declaration on Delivery of Letters.

And that until such Declaration shall be made and produced to the Collector, Comptroller, or principal Officer of the Customs, he or they shall not permit such Ship or Vessel to report.

Penalty on refusing to make Declaration.

XL. And be it further enacted, That if any Master of any Ship or Vessel shall wilfully refuse or neglect to make the several Declarations by this Act required, or to produce the last-mentioned Declaration, he shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence, the Sum of Fifty Pounds.

Penalty on Persons permitting Vessels to sail until Regulations complied with.

XLI. And be it further enacted, That if any Collector, Comptroller, or principal Officer, hereby required to prohibit any Ship or Vessel reporting until the Requisites of this Act shall be complied with, shall permit such Ship or Vessel to report, such Collector, Comptroller, or Officer, so permitting such Ship or Vessel to report, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Two hundred Pounds.

Officers to search Packages.

XLII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector, Comptroller, or Officer, at any Port or Place whatsoever, who, in the due Execution of his Duty as a Revenue Officer, shall discover any Letters or Packets on board any Vessel in any Port or Place whatsoever, contrary to the Provisions of this Act, to seize and take all such Letters and Packets, and to forward the same to the Postmaster General or his Deputy, at the Port or Place; and that the Officer seizing and sending the same shall be entitled to one Moiety of the Penalty which may be recovered for any such Offence; and that in all Cases of such Seizure the Proof shall lie on the Person in whose Possession or Baggage the Letters or Packets shall be found that the Provisions of this Act have been complied with.

Commanders of Ships of War to send Letters to the Post Office.

XLIII. And be it further enacted, That in case any Bags, Packages, or Parcels of Letters shall be brought by any Ship of War, the Commander thereof shall cause the same and all Letters which may be on board (except the Public Dispatches of Government) to be immediately sent to the Post Office, at the First Port where he shall arrive; and such Commander shall, for all such Letters, be entitled to receive the same Allowances as are payable to Masters of Ships or Vessels.

Money due to Masters of Vessels to be paid by Postmaster General.

XLIV. And be it further enacted, That in case it shall happen from any unforeseen Circumstances, that the Master of any Ship or Vessel, or the Commander of any Ship of War, shall, upon delivering his Bags, Packages, or Parcels of Letters, be prevented from receiving the Money to which he shall be entitled, such Master or Commander shall nevertheless be paid the same, by the Order of the Postmaster General, at such other Places as may be most convenient.

Postage to be paid on Delivery.

XLV. And be it further enacted, That the Rates of Postage hereinbefore mentioned for the Conveyance of Letters and Packets by the said Packet Boats, Ships, or Vessels from any Port in *Great Britain*, to any Port in the *East Indies*, shall be received by the Deputies of the Postmaster General, upon their Delivery in *India*, and that the Rates of Postage for the Conveyance of Letters from any Port or Place in the *East Indies* to *Great Britain* shall be received at the Option of the Parties sending

the ſame, or upon their Delivery in *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, by the Deputies of the Poſtmaſter General in *India* upon forwarding the ſame.

Penalty on Perſons having Letters on board after Delivery at the Poſt Office.

XLVI. And be it further enacted, That if, after the Maſter of any Veſſel ſhall have delivered his Letters at the Poſt Office of any Port at which he may touch, prior to his arriving at that Port where the Ship or Veſſel is to report, any Letter or Packet not exempted by this Act, ſhall be found on board his Veſſel, in his Poſſeſſion, or in the Poſſeſſion of any of his Crew, or any Paſſenger on board, every ſuch Perſon knowingly having ſuch Letter or Packet in his Poſſeſſion or in his Baggage, ſhall forfeit and pay for every Letter the Sum of Five Pounds.

Penalty on Perſons falſely ſuperſcribing Letters as being Ship Owners, &c.

XLVII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon whatſoever ſhall falſely ſuperſcribe any Letter as being the Owner, Charterer, or Conſignee of the Veſſel conveying the ſame, or the Owner, Shipper, or Conſignee of the Goods ſhipped in the Veſſel, every ſuch Perſon and Perſons ſo offending ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds.

Penalties how to be recovered and applied.

XLVIII. And be it further enacted, That One Moiety of the ſeveral pecuniary Penalties hereby impoſed ſhall be payable to the Uſe of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and the other Moiety to any Perſon who ſhall and will inform and ſue for the ſame, to be recovered with full Coſts of Suit, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record in *Great Britain*, or in the Colony or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed, wherein no Eſſoign, Protection, or Privilege, or Wager of Law ſhall be admitted.

After the Eſtabliſhment, if Three Months elapſe without diſpatching a Public Mail, any Perſon may carry Letters without being ſubject to the Penalties of this Act.

XLIX. And be it further enacted, That if at any Time hereafter the Eſtabliſhment of ſuch Veſſels as aforeſaid, a Space of Three Calendar Months ſhall have elapſed without any Public Mail having been diſpatched from *Great Britain* to *The Cape of Good Hope*, and *The Mauritius*, and the ſeveral Preſidencies of *Fort William*, *Fort Saint George*, and *Bombay* in the *Eaſt Indies*, it ſhall be lawful for any Perſon to ſend, or take on board, and carry any Letters or Packets from *Great Britain* to ſuch of the ſaid Places to which no Mail ſhall have been ſo diſpatched during the Time aforeſaid, or from ſuch of the Places aforeſaid from which no Mail ſhall have been ſo diſpatched to *Great Britain*, without being ſubject therefore to any of the Penalties, Forfeitures, Payments, or Reſtrictions in this Act contained, until ſome Public Mail ſhall have been again diſpatched from *Great Britain* to ſuch Place, or from ſuch Place to *Great Britain*.

Not to extend to China Letters.

L. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to any Letters or Packets to or from *China*, but that they may be ſent and carried as heretofore has been uſed, any Thing to the contrary herein contained notwithſtanding.

No Penalties to be incurred unleſs the Eſtabliſhment of Mails be carried into Effect within Six Months.

LI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Perſon or Perſons ſhall incur or become liable to any of the Penalties by this Act impoſed, ſo far as the ſame ſhall relate to Letters to be ſent to and from *India*, unleſs the Proviſions herein-before contained, as to eſtabliſhing Veſſels for the Conveyance of Mails of Letters to *The Eaſt Indies*, ſhall be carried into Effect within Six Months from the paſſing of this Act.

In Actions brought for carrying Letters contrary to the Provisions of 9 A. c. 10. or 42 G. 3 c. 81. Proof shall lie on the Defendant.

LII. And be it further enacted, That in any Action or Suit against any Person or Persons, for collecting, carrying, conveying, delivering, or sending Letters or Packets, contrary to the Provisions in an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, intituled *An Act for establishing a General Post Office for all Her Majesty's Dominions, and for settling a weekly Sum out of the Revenues thereof for the Service of the War, and other Her Majesty's Occasions*, or contrary to the Provisions in an Act made in the Forty-second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for amending so much of an Act passed in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, as relates to the secreting, embezzling, or destroying any Letter or Packet sent by the Post, and for the better Protection of such Letters and Packets, and for more effectually preventing Letters and Packets being sent otherwise than by the Post*, or in either of them, or contrary to the Provisions of this Act, the Proof shall lie on the Person or Persons against whom such Action or Suit shall be brought, for delivering or sending Letters or Packets, that the same were delivered or sent according to the Provisions contained in the said last-mentioned Acts, or One of them, or according to the Provisions contained in this present Act.

Application of the Rates.

LIII. And be it further enacted, That the Monies to arise by the several Rates and Duties as aforesaid, (except the Monies which shall be necessary to defray such Expences as shall be incurred in the Management and Collection of the same), shall be paid into the Receipt of the Exchequer at *Westminster*, and carried to and made Part of the Consolidated Fund of *Great Britain*.

Limitation of Actions.

LIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons, for any Thing done in pursuance of this Act, the same shall be commenced within Twelve Months after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act; and if it shall appear so to be done, or that such Action or Suit shall be commenced after the Time before limited for bringing the same, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon a Verdict for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Suit, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if upon Demurrer, Judgment shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in any other Cases by Law.

Treble Costs.

LONDON: Printed by George Eyre and Andrew Strahan, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1815.