

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUINTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XCVIII.

An Act to enable the Select Committee on the *Downpatrick* Election to re-assemble, and to suspend the Transmission of the Warrants and other Proceedings for the Appointment of Commissioners to examine Witnesses in *Ireland*. [14th *June* 1815.]

WHEREAS a Petition was presented in the present Session of Parliament by *Edward Southwell Ruthven* Esquire, a Candidate at the last Election of a Member to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Downpatrick*, in the County of *Down*, in that Part of the United Kingdom called *Ireland*, complaining of an undue Election and Return for the said Borough of *Downpatrick*: And whereas a Select Committee was appointed for trying and determining the Merits of the said Petition in Manner directed by several Acts passed for regulating the Trials of controverted Elections or Returns of Members to serve in Parliament: And whereas it was reported from the said Select Committee that the Parties before the said Committee had applied for a Commission under the Provisions of an Act passed in the Forty-second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, for regulating the Trials of controverted Elections or Returns of Members to serve in the United Parliament for *Ireland*; and that it appeared to the said Committee, from the Nature of the Case and the Number of Witnesses to be examined relative to the Allegations in the said Petition, that the same could not be effectually enquired into before the said Committee without great Expence and Inconvenience to the Parties; and that the said Committee had therefore thought it necessary to order and had accordingly made an Order for the Nomination

and Appointment of Commiſſioners to examine Evidence in *Ireland* reſpecting all Matters and Things referred to the ſaid Committee; and that Commiſſioners had accordingly been appointed, and a Warrant iſſued by the Chairman of the ſaid Committee for the Meeting of the ſaid Commiſſioners: And whereas in purſuance of the ſaid Report, and of Leave requeſted by the ſaid Committee for that Purpoſe, the ſaid Select Committee had Leave to adjourn until ſuch Time as the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons ſhould by his Warrant direct the ſaid Committee to reaſſemble: And whereas the ſaid Committee hath therefore adjourned; and the ſaid *Edward Southwell Ruthven* has ſince the ſaid Adjournment preſented another Petition, ſtating that he was not now deſirous of proſecuting his firſt Petition complaining of an undue Return for the ſaid Borough of *Downpatrick*, and with Conſent of the Sitting Member prayed that the Houſe of Commons would permit all further Proceedings upon the ſaid Petition to be diſcontinued: And whereas the Warrant iſſued for the aſſembling the Commiſſioners in *Ireland* hath not yet been tranſmitted, and it is expedient to prevent unneceſſary Expence and Trouble to the Public and the Parties concerned; be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That the Warrant ſo iſſued by the Chairman of the ſaid Select Committee ſhall not be ſent to *Ireland*, but ſhall remain in the Hands of the Chairman of the ſaid Select Committee, and no further Proceedings ſhall be had thereon, but the ſame ſhall be conſidered to be void and of no Effect, in like Manner in every reſpect as if the ſame had not been iſſued; any Thing in any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Warrant iſſued by the Chairman of the Select Committee to examine Witneſſes in Ireland to be void.

II. And be it further enacted, That immediately after the paſſing of this Act the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons ſhall iſſue his Warrant, ſigned by him, and ſhall cauſe the ſame to be inſerted in the *London Gazette*, directing the ſaid Select Committee, upon the ſaid Petition of the ſaid *Edward Southwell Ruthven* complaining of ſuch undue Election and Return, to re-aſſemble and meet again within the Space of Seven Days from the Date of ſuch Warrant, and the ſaid Select Committee ſhall thereupon reaſſemble and meet again; and it ſhall thereupon be lawful for the ſaid Select Committee when ſo re-aſſembled and met to proceed and act in relation to the ſaid Petition of the ſaid *Edward Southwell Ruthven* complaining of the ſaid undue Election and Return, in like Manner in every reſpect as if no ſuch Warrant as aforeſaid had been iſſued by the Chairman of the ſaid Select Committee as aforeſaid had taken place; any Thing in any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Select Committee to meet and proceed on the Petition of E. S. Ruthven.

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