ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XX.

An Act for more effectually discovering the Longitude at Sea, and encouraging Attempts to find a *Northern* Passage between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, and to approach the *Northern* Pole.

[8th *May* 1818.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of Her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, intituled *An Act for providing a Public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea*, it was enacted, that Persons holding certain Public Offices therein stated, for the time being, and certain other Persons therein mentioned by Name, should be Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, and for examining, trying, and judging of all Proposals, Experiments, and Improvements relating to the same: And whereas another Act was passed in the Twenty-sixth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, for rendering more effectual the last-recited Act: And whereas by another Act passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for continuing the Encouragement and Reward of Persons making certain Discoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, or making other useful Discoveries and Improvements in Navigation, and for making Experiments relating thereto, and for adding a Commissioner to execute the several Acts for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea*, Persons holding certain other Offices, therein enumerated, for the time being, were added to and joined with the Commissioners appointed by the said first-mentioned Act: And whereas all the Persons mentioned by Name in the said first-recited Act are long since deceased: And whereas by reason of the Residence at the Universities of certain Professors who are constituted Members of the Board of Commissioners aforesaid, and by there not being a Power of electing into the said Board any Persons but the said Official Commissioners and the said Professors, it often happens that there are no Persons, particularly versed in the Sciences of the Mathematics and Astronomy, resident in *London*, and belonging to the said Board; and that divers Persons of great Skill and Ability, whose Services would be most

12 Anne. c. 15.

26 G. 2. c. 25.

30 G. 3. c. 14.

beneficial to the Objects of the said Board, are by the said Constitution of the Board excluded therefrom: 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 the said recited Acts shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Recited Acts repealed.

Commissioners for discovering the Longitude appointed.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Lord High Treasurer of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or the First Commissioner for executing the said Office, the Lord High Admiral or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and such other Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* as may be Flag Officers in His Majesty's Fleet, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the President of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations, the Governor of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at *Greenwich*, the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, the Secretaries of the Treasury, the Secretaries of the Admiralty, the Comptroller of the Navy, the President and Three Fellows of the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomer at *Greenwich*, the *Savilian*, *Lucasian*, *Plumian*, and *Lowndian* Professors of the Mathematics and Astronomy at the Universities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, the Observer at the *Radcliffe* Observatory at *Oxford*, all now and for the time being, and Three other Persons well versed in the Sciences of Mathematics, Astronomy, or Navigation, to be annually selected, chosen, and named, as herein-after provided, shall be Commissioners for discovering the Longitude at Sea, and for examining, trying, and judging all Proposals, Experiments, and Improvements relating to the same, and for rewarding Persons making useful Discoveries and Improvements in or connected with Navigation.

Further Appointment of Commissioners.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Three Members of the Royal Society, so to be Commissioners, shall be the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Colchester*, *Davies Gilbert* Esquire, and Colonel *William Mudge*; and that in the Event of any Vacancy by Death, Resignation, or Refusal to act, of any of the said Three Persons, or of any Person hereafter chosen to succeed them, such Vacancy shall be filled up by the Choice and Election of the President and Council of the Royal Society; and that the said Three other Commissioners shall be Doctor *William Hyde Wollaston*, and Doctor *Thomas Young*, and Captain *Henry Kater*, who shall continue Commissioners until the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and twenty, after which Time the Three Persons to be the said last-mentioned Commissioners shall be annually, or as often as a Vacancy by Death, Resignation, or Refusal to act, may occur, selected, chosen, and named by the Lord High Admiral, or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, and shall be Persons well versed in the Sciences of the Mathematics, Astronomy, or Navigation, and shall be generally resident in or near the City of *London*, and capable of attending at the Board of Commissioners, and of assisting in the Objects herein intrusted to the said Board.

All Acts conferring any Duty or Power on the Commissioners, repealed.

IV. And whereas by the said recited Acts, and by divers other Acts passed from Time to Time, and all founded upon and referring to the said first-recited Act, divers Duties and Authorities were imposed and conferred upon the Commissioners constituted by the said recited Acts, and divers

Sums of Money for various Purpoſes, and under different Conditions, were from Time to Time granted and provided to be employed and expended towards the Diſcovery of the Longitude at Sea, and for divers Purpoſes in ſuch Acts mentioned, and for Rewards to ſuch Perſons as ſhould aſcertain the Longitude within certain Limits and Conditions therein ſpecified; and for enabling the ſaid Commiſſioners to cauſe a Survey to be made of the Shores of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and aſcertaining the Latitude and Longitude of the Capes, Promontories, and Headlands thereof: And whereas ſome of the Proviſions of the ſaid Acts have been repealed, and others thereof have expired; and it is expedient wholly to repeal the ſame, for the Purpoſe of re-enacting and conferring upon the new Commiſſioners ſuch of the Powers, Authorities, and Duties at preſent veſted in the old Commiſſioners, as are fit to be continued in force: Be it therefore enacted, That all and every Act, conferring any Duty, Authority, or Power on the Commiſſioners conſtituted by the ſaid firſt-recited Acts, ſhall be and are hereby repealed.

Commiſſioners may propoſe Three Scales of Reward to Perſons making Diſcoveries regarding the Longitude.

V. And whereas the Longitude hath been aſcertained within certain of the Limits and Conditions ſpecified in the ſaid Acts: And whereas certain other of the Limits and Conditions ſtill ſubſiſting are conſidered as impracticable, and have never been tried: And whereas it may conduce to the Advancement of Science, and to the Honour and Intereſts of this Country, that fit and proportionate Rewards ſhould be provided for Perſons who ſhall aſcertain the Longitude within certain new Limits and Conditions: And whereas it is expedient that ſuch Limits and Conditions ſhould not be immutably fixed by Act of Parliament, but ſhould be regulated on ſcientific Principles by the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, and ſhould be varied from Time to Time according to the Progreſs of Diſcoveries and the Advancement of Science: Be it enacted, That the ſaid laſt-mentioned Commiſſioners ſhall from Time to Time, as they may ſee proper, propoſe, by their Memorial to His Majeſty in Council, to direct and eſtabliſh Three Scales of proportionate Rewards to be paid to any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall, by any Principle not already made public, aſcertain the Longitude within Three correſponding Scales of Limit and Condition, ſuch Rewards not exceeding the reſpective Sums of Five thouſand Pounds, Seven thouſand five hundred Pounds, and Ten thouſand Pounds; and if His Majeſty in Council ſhall be pleaſed to ſanction and approve ſuch Propoſal, then that the ſame ſhall be publiſhed in the *London Gazette*, and that the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall have full Power and Authority to inquire into and examine all Propoſals which may be made for finding the Longitude; and if on reaſonable Experiment, to be judged of and certified by the ſaid Commiſſioners, it ſhall be found that the Longitude hath been aſcertained within any of the ſaid Three Scales of Limit and Condition, agreeably to the ſaid Order in Council, it ſhall be lawful to them to pay or cauſe to be paid the proportionate Reward aſſigned to the Scale within which ſuch Diſcovery or Experiment ſhall have aſcertained the Longitude.

If Propoſal be approved by His Majeſty in Council, Commiſſioners may pay the proportionate Reward.

Commiſſioners may expend 1000*l.* a year in making Experiments, &c.

VI. And whereas it is expedient that the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhould be enabled to expend certain Sums towards making Experiments of Inſtruments, Modes, or Propoſals, and for making and publiſhing Obſervations, Calculations, and Tables for aſcertaining the Longitude, or towards improving or correcting ſuch as may have been already made, or for other Purpoſes uſeful to Navigation; be it enacted, That they may pay or expend any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding One thouſand Pounds in any one Year, towards the making, correcting, or publiſhing any ſuch Experiments, Modes, Obſervations, Calculations, or Tables.

VII. And

And a like Sum in aſcertaining the Latitude and Longitude of Places.

VII. And whereas it is expedient that the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhould be enabled to cauſe to be aſcertained, as accurately as may be, the Latitude and Longitude of Places whereof the exact Situation hath not been already ſufficiently aſcertained; be it enacted, That they may expend or cauſe to be expended any Sum not exceeding in the whole One thouſand Pounds in any one Year for ſuch Purpoſe.

Rewards may be allowed to Perſons making Improvements in former Inventions.

VIII. And whereas it may happen that Propoſals, Inventions, and Tables, or Corrections and Amendments of former Propoſals, Inventions, or Tables, ingenious in themſelves and uſeful to Science, and which may deſerve Encouragement, though they do not come within the Limits and Conditions ſpecified for the before-mentioned Rewards, may be made to the ſaid Commiſſioners; and it is expedient that they ſhould be enabled to beſtow ſuch moderate Rewards upon the Perſon or Perſons who may have made ſuch Propoſal, Invention, or Correction; be it therefore enacted, That the ſaid Commiſſioners may pay or cauſe to be paid ſuch Sum not exceeding Five hundred Pounds to any one Perſon for any one Propoſal or Invention, or Two thouſand Pounds in one Year, as they may conſider the ſaid Propoſals, Inventions, Tables, or Corrections to deſerve.

18 G. 2. c. 17.

IX. And whereas by an Act paſſed in the Eighteenth Year of His late Majeſty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for giving a public Reward to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, being His Majeſty's Subject or Subjects, as ſhall diſcover a North-weſt Paſſage through* Hudſon's Streights *to the* Weſtern *and* Southern *Oceans of* America, a Sum of Twenty thouſand Pounds was provided for the Owner or Owners of any Ship or Veſſel which ſhould firſt find out and ſail through ſuch Paſſage; and the Perſons holding certain Offices therein named, for the Time being, were appointed Commiſſioners for the ſaid Diſcovery: And whereas by an Act paſſed in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty,

16 G. 3. c. 6.

intituled *An Act for giving a public Reward to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, being His Majeſty's Subject or Subjects, as ſhall diſcover a* Northern *Paſſage for Veſſels by Sea between the* Atlantic *and* Pacific *Oceans, and alſo unto ſuch as ſhall firſt approach by Sea within One Degree of the* Northern *Pole*; the Reward in the laſt-recited Act was extended to the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, of any of His Majeſty's Ships or Veſſels, and to the Owner or Owners of any private Ship or Veſſel which ſhould find out and ſail through any Paſſage by Sea between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, in any Direction or Parallel of the *Northern* Hemiſphere to the North of the Fifty-ſecond Degree of North Latitude; and further aſſigning a Reward of Five thouſand Pounds to the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, of any of His Majeſty's Ships or Veſſels, or the Owner or Owners of any private Ship or Veſſel which ſhould firſt approach within One Degree of the *Northern* Pole; and appointing the Commiſſioners of the Longitude to be Commiſſioners for executing this laſt-recited Act: And whereas many Advantages, both to Commerce and Science, may be expected from granting ſuch proportionate Rewards as well to ſuch Perſon or Perſons as may accompliſh the Objects of the ſaid Two laſt-mentioned Acts, as to ſuch other Perſon or Perſons as may approach thereto within certain Limits or Conditions: And whereas it is expedient that the Regulation of ſuch Limits and Conditions, and the Deciſion, whether and how far ſuch Object may have been accompliſhed, ſhould be confided to the Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude at Sea appointed by this Act; be it therefore enacted, That the ſaid Two laſt-recited Acts ſhall be and they are hereby repealed.

Recited Acts repealed.

X. And

X. And be it further enacted, That if any Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, belonging to any of His Majeſty's Subjects, or to His Majeſty, ſhall firſt find out and ſail through any Paſſage by Sea, between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, in any Direction or Parallel of the Northern Hemiſphere, the Owner or Owners of ſuch Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, if belonging to any of His Majeſty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen, and Marines of ſuch Ships or Veſſels, if belonging to His Majeſty, ſo firſt finding out and ſailing through ſuch Paſſage ſhall receive a Reward for ſuch Diſcovery, of the Sum of Twenty thouſand Pounds.

Perſons firſt finding and ſailing through any Paſſage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, ſhall receive a Reward of 20,000 l.

XI. And whereas Ships employed both in the *Spitzbergen* Seas and in *Davis*'s Streights may have Opportunities of approaching the *North* Pole: And whereas Approaches towards the *Northern* Pole may tend greatly to the Diſcovery of a Communication between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, as well as may be attended with many Advantages to Commerce and Science; be it therefore enacted, That if any Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, ſhall approach within One Degree of the *Northern* Pole, the Owner of ſuch Ship or Veſſel, Ships or Veſſels, if belonging to any of His Majeſty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen, and Marines of any Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, if belonging to His Majeſty, ſo firſt approaching within One Degree of the *Northern* Pole, ſhall be entitled to receive a Reward of Five thouſand Pounds.

Perſons firſt approaching within One Degree of the Northern Pole entitled to a Reward of 5,000 l.

XII. And for the Encouragement of Perſons who may attempt the ſaid Paſſage, or approach to the *Northern* Pole, but not wholly accompliſh the ſame; be it enacted, That the ſaid Commiſſioners for diſcovering the Longitude at Sea may, by their Memorial, propoſe to His Majeſty in Council to direct and eſtabliſh proportionate Rewards to be paid to ſuch Perſon as aforeſaid who ſhall firſt have accompliſhed certain Proportions of the ſaid Paſſage or Approach; and if His Majeſty in Council ſhall be pleaſed to ſanction and approve the ſaid Propoſal, then that the ſame ſhall be publiſhed in the *London Gazette*; and any Perſon or Perſons accompliſhing ſuch Paſſages, or the ſpecified Proportions of them, ſhall be entitled, on the Award of the ſaid Commiſſioners, to receive ſuch total or proportionate Sums as may have been offered for the Object which he or they may have then accompliſhed.

Commiſſioners may reward Attempts to approach the ſame.

XIII. And in order to aſcertain who are the firſt Diſcoverers of the ſaid *Northern* Paſſage into the *Pacific* Ocean, and who are the firſt Approachers to within One Degree of the *Northern* Pole, and to whom either the whole Rewards or the proportionate Rewards by this Act reſpectively given do belong; be it further enacted, That the Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude by Sea be authorized and empowered to call for the reſpective Journal or Journals, Book or Books, and Papers, kept on board the reſpective Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, of the Claimant or Claimants reſpectively; and alſo to examine upon Oath all ſuch Perſons as they the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall think proper, with regard to any Claim or Claims, as well any Perſon or Perſons produced by the reſpective Claimant or Claimants, or any other Perſon or Perſons who may ſeem capable of giving any Information; which Oath the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby empowered and required to adminiſter; and the ſaid Commiſſioners being fully ſatisfied, upon ſuch Examination and Proof, that ſuch *Northern* Paſſage is effectually diſcovered and ſailed through, or that ſuch Approach within One Degree of the *Northern* Pole, or any ſpecified

Proceedings in aſcertaining the Diſcoverers of ſuch Northern Paſſage, &c.

Proportion of the ſaid Paſſage or Approach, ſhall have been made and accompliſhed, they are hereby authorized to pay or cauſe to be paid the ſaid Rewards, or ſuch Proportion of them as the Claimant or Claimants may under this Act, or under ſuch Order in Council, be entitled to receive.

Rewards claimed by Officers and Men of His Majeſty's Ships how to be diſtributed.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if the ſaid Rewards, or either of them, ſhall be claimed by and adjudged to the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen and Marines of any Ship or Ships, Veſſel or Veſſels, belonging to His Majeſty, the ſame ſhall be diſpoſed in favour of and diſtributed among ſuch Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen and Marines, in ſuch Proportions as ſhall be directed by His Majeſty in Council, and in no other Manner.

Executors may receive the Reward.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the Executors, Adminiſtrators, and Aſſigns of any Perſon or Perſons to whom any Sum whatſoever ſhall be awarded by the Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, ſhall be entitled to receive the ſame in the Event of the Death of ſuch Perſon or Perſons.

Commiſſioners may cauſe Nautical Almanacks, &c. to be made and publiſhed.

XVI. And whereas the Publication of the Nautical Almanack, conſtructed by proper Perſons, under the Directions of the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude at Sea, is of great Importance to the Safety of Ships and Perſons, and highly conducive to the general Intereſts of Commerce and Navigation; be it therefore enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners to cauſe ſuch Nautical Almanacks, or other uſeful Tables, to be conſtructed, and to print, publiſh, and vend, or cauſe to be printed, publiſhed, and vended, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other uſeful Table or Tables, which they ſhall from Time to Time judge neceſſary and uſeful, in order to facilitate the Method of diſcovering the Longitude at Sea; any Law, Statute, excluſive Privilege, private Charter, or other Cuſtom, to the contrary thereof notwithſtanding.

No unauthorized Perſons to publiſh the Nautical Almanack,

XVII. And be it enacted, That no Perſon or Perſons ſhall print, publiſh, or vend, or cauſe to be printed, publiſhed or vended, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other Table or Tables, conſtructed under the Direction of the ſaid Commiſſioners, without being firſt licenſed by the ſaid Commiſſioners; and if any Perſon or Perſons not ſo licenſed, or not being authorized by the Perſon or Perſons ſo licenſed by the ſaid Commiſſioners, ſhall print, publiſh, or vend, or cauſe to be printed, publiſhed, or vended, any ſuch Almanack or Almanacks, or other Table or Tables, every ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall, for every Copy of ſuch Nautical Almanack or Table ſo printed, publiſhed, or vended, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at *Weſtminſter*; and that one Moiety of ſuch Penalty and Forfeiture ſhall be to His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, and the other Moiety to him or them that ſhall proſecute, inform, and ſue for the ſame.

on Penalty of 20l.

Penalties to be ſued for by the Secretary of Commiſſioners of Longitude.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Penalty or Forfeiture ſhall be ſued, informed, and proſecuted for by the Secretary of the ſaid Commiſſioners of the Longitude for the Time being, or by ſome other Perſon or Perſons authorized by the ſaid Commiſſioners, and ſhall not be ſued, informed, or proſecuted for by any other Perſon or Perſons whomſoever; and that ſuch Suits, Proſecutions, and Informations ſhall not abate by reaſon

reaſon of the Death of ſuch Proſecutors or any of them, but ſhall be continued in the caſe of a ſole Plaintiff or Informer dying before Judgment obtained, in the Name of the Secretary of the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Time being.

Nautical Almanack not to be liable to Stamp Duties.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That no ſuch Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, ſo publiſhed under the Directions of the ſaid Commiſſioners, ſhall be ſubject or liable to any Stamp Duty whatſoever.

Salary to Three of the Commiſſioners.

XX. And be it further enacted, That there ſhall be annually paid to each of the Three laſt-named Commiſſioners and their Succeſſors, to be annually named according to the Proviſions of this Act, ſuch annual Sum as His Majeſty, by any Order in Council, ſhall be pleaſed to direct.

Secretary to be appointed.

XXI. And whereas it is neceſſary to continue the Appointment of a Secretary to the Board of Commiſſioners for diſcovering the Longitude: And whereas it is highly expedient to the Intereſt of Navigation, and the Honour of this Country, that the ſaid Nautical Almanack ſhould be accurately computed, compared, and publiſhed, and that the Method of finding the Longitude by Timekeepers ſhould alſo be encouraged, and that the Timekeepers belonging to His Majeſty for the Uſe of His Ships of War ſhould be carefully examined and regulated; be it further enacted, That ſome Perſon of competent Skill and Ability ſhall be nominated and appointed by the Lord High Admiral or Commiſſioners of the Admiralty to be Secretary to the ſaid Board of Commiſſioners, and for ſuperintending, under the Directions of the Board in general, and the Aſtronomer Royal in particular, the due and correct Publication of the Nautical Almanack, and for taking care of and regulating ſuch Timekeepers as may be intruſted to his Care by the Lord High Admiral or Commiſſioners of the Admiralty.

Tenure of his Office, and Salary.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Secretary ſhall hold his ſaid Office during the Pleaſure of the Lord High Admiral or Commiſſioners of the Admiralty; and for his Trouble and Pains therein he ſhall receive ſuch annual Salary as His Majeſty, by any Order in Council, may pleaſe to direct; but if it ſhall ſo happen that a Perſon ſhall not be found competent to execute the Three ſeveral Duties of Secretary to the ſaid Board, and of ſuperintending the Publication of the Nautical Almanack, and the Care and Regulation of Timekeepers, it ſhall be lawful to the ſaid Commiſſioners to propoſe to His Majeſty in Council to divide the ſaid Duties, and aſſign them to ſeveral Perſons, and to apportion to each Perſon ſuch Part of the Salary eſtabliſhed for the Performance of the united Duties as may ſeem to them fit and proportionate to the ſeveral Duty or Duties to be performed by ſuch Perſon.

Salaries to be included in the ordinary Eſtimates of the Navy.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Salaries to the Three annual Commiſſioners, and the ſaid Secretary or Perſons performing the laſt-mentioned Duties, ſhall be annually placed on the Ordinary Eſtimate of the Navy.

Not to affect Half-pay.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That no Receipt of any Salary or Reward under this Act ſhall prevent any Officer entitled to any Military or Naval Half-pay from receiving ſuch Half-pay in addition to any ſuch Salary or Reward.

XXV. And

Eſtimate of Expence to be prepared.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That the Commiſſioners for diſcovering the Longitude at Sea ſhall, at the Beginning of every Year, make an Eſtimate of the Sum or Sums which they ſhall deem to be neceſſary for executing the Purpoſes of this Act in ſuch Year, which Eſtimate ſhall be tranſmitted to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and, on being approved or amended by the Lord High Admiral or Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, ſhall be placed on the Ordinary Eſtimate of the Navy.

Mode of Payment of Money.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid under the Authority of this Act ſhall be paid, upon Certificates under the Hands and Seals of the Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude at Sea, to the Commiſſioners of the Navy for the Time being; and the Commiſſioners of the Navy ſhall forthwith make out a Bill or Bills for the Sum or Sums contained in ſuch Certificate or Certificates, payable by the Treaſurer of the Navy, and ſuch Sum or Sums of Money the ſaid Treaſurer of the Navy is hereby required to pay immediately to the Perſon or Perſons mentioned in the ſaid Certificate or Certificates, out of any Money which ſhall be in his Hands unapplied for the Uſe of the Navy: Provided always, that all ſuch Sums of Money as ſhall exceed the Sum of Five thouſand Pounds ſhall be certified under the Hands and Seals of Two-thirds at leaſt of the ſaid Commiſſioners, and all ſuch Sums as ſhall exceed the Sum of One thouſand Pounds ſhall be certified under the Hands and Seals of the major Part of them, and that all ſuch Sums as ſhall not exceed One thouſand Pounds ſhall be certified under the Hands and Seals of any Five or more of them; ſuch Certificates being in every Caſe whatſoever ſigned by One at leaſt of the following Commiſſioners; that is to ſay, the Lord High Treaſurer of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or the Firſt Commiſſioner of the Treaſury, the Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or Firſt Commiſſioner of the Admiralty, the Secretaries of the Treaſury, and the Secretaries of the Admiralty.

Quorum of the Commiſſioners and Perſons who ſhall attend.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That in any other reſpects where any Power or Authority is veſted in the Commiſſioners under this Act, the ſame may be exerciſed by any Five or more Commiſſioners at the Board aſſembled, in as full and ample a Manner as if the whole Commiſſioners were then and there preſent; provided always, that at every ſuch Board one of the following Commiſſioners at the leaſt ſhall be preſent; that is to ſay, the Firſt or one other of the Commiſſioners, or One of the Secretaries of the Admiralty; and that alſo Three other of the following Commiſſioners at the leaſt ſhall be preſent, that is to ſay, the Preſident of the Royal Society, the Aſtronomer Royal, the Profeſſors and Obſerver at the Two Univerſities, and the Three Commiſſioners annually elected and receiving Salaries as aforeſaid.

Meetings of Commiſſioners.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That there ſhall be held at leaſt Four ſtated Meetings of the ſaid Commiſſioners within every Year, to be held on ſuch Days as His Majeſty by any Order in Council may appoint, and ſuch other Meetings as from Time to Time may be neceſſary; of all which Meetings due Notice ſhall be given to the ſaid Commiſſioners reſpectively.

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