ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XLIX.

An Act to explain Three Acts, passed in the Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, and Fifty-first Years of His Majesty's Reign, respectively, for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. [30th *May* 1818.]

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Forty-sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act to prevent the Importation of Slaves by any of His Majesty's Subjects into any Islands, Colonies, Plantations, or Territories belonging to any Foreign Sovereign, State, or Power; and also to render more effectual a certain Order made by His Majesty in Council on the Fifteenth Day of* August *One thousand eight hundred and five, for prohibiting the Importation of Slaves (except in certain Cases) into any of the Settlements, Islands, Colonies, or Plantations on the Continent of* America *or in the* West Indies, *which have been surrendered to His Majesty's Arms during the present War; and to prevent the fitting out of Foreign Slave Ships from* British *Ports:* And whereas an Act was passed in the Forty-seventh Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade:* And whereas another Act was passed in the Fifty-first Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for rendering more effectual an Act made in the Forty-seventh Year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled 'An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade:'* And whereas divers Persons have, contrary to Law, imported into certain of His Majesty's Possessions on the Continent of *South America*, certain Negro Slaves

46 G. 3. c. 52.

47 G. 3. c. 36.

51 G. 3. c. 23.

Slaves from other Poſſeſſions of His Majeſty: And whereas it is expedient that all Perſons who have been concerned in adviſing, authorizing, or making ſuch Importations of Negro Slaves as aforeſaid, contrary to Law, ſhould be indemnified, inaſmuch as ſuch Importations have been made under a Belief that they were authorized by Law: 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,

Certain Importations of Slaves rendered valid, and Proſecutions nulled.

That the ſaid Importations be and be deemed valid and of due Force in Law; and that all perſonal Actions and Suits, Indictments, Informations, and all Proſecutions and Proceedings whatſoever, which have been or ſhall be hereafter proſecuted or commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for having adviſed, authorized, or made any ſuch Importation at any Time before the paſſing of this Act, be, are, and ſhall be diſcharged and made void by virtue of this Act; and that if any Action or Suit ſhall be proſecuted or commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for or by reaſon of any ſuch Importation, he, ſhe, or they may plead the General Iſſue, and give this Act and the ſpecial Matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in any Action or Suit ſo to be proſecuted or commenced in that Part of the United Kingdom called *England* or that Part called *Ireland*, or in any of His Majeſty's Poſſeſſions on the Continent of *South America* or in the *Weſt India* Iſlands, ſhall become nonſuit, or forbear further Proſecution, or ſuffer Diſcontinuance, or if a Verdict ſhall paſs againſt ſuch Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants ſhall recover his, her, or their Double Coſts, for which he, ſhe, or they ſhall have the like Remedy as in Caſes where the Coſts by Law are given to the Defendants; and if any ſuch Action or Suit as aforeſaid ſhall be commenced or proſecuted in the Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, the Court before which ſuch Action or Suit ſhall be commenced or proſecuted ſhall allow to the Defender the Benefit of the Diſcharge and Indemnity thereby provided, and ſhall further allow him his Double Coſts of Suit in all ſuch Caſes as aforeſaid.

For ſtaying Proceedings where Suits have been commenced.

II. And be it alſo enacted, That if any Action or Suit hath been already commenced againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any ſuch Importation, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Defendant or Defenders in ſuch Action or Suit reſpectively, in whatever Court of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or in any of His Majeſty's Poſſeſſions on the Continent of *South America*, or in the *Weſt India* Iſlands, ſuch Action or Suit ſhall have been commenced, to apply to ſuch Court or Courts reſpectively, to ſtay all Proceedings thereon reſpectively, by Motion in a ſummary Way, and ſuch Court or Courts are hereby required to make Order for that Purpoſe accordingly; and the Court or Courts making ſuch Order ſhall allow and award to the Defendant or Defenders reſpectively Double Coſts of Suit, for which they ſhall reſpectively have the like Remedy as in Caſes where the Coſts are by Law given to the Defendant or Defenders.

Impoveriſhed Land in the Bahamas:

III. And whereas it has been repreſented that there is in the *Bahama Iſlands*, and on certain Eſtates in the Iſland of *Dominica*, a conſiderable Quantity of the Land which, from Length of Cultivation, has become exhauſted: And whereas it has in conſequence become impoſſible for the Proprietors of ſuch Land to find profitable Employment and Subſiſtence

for the Negro Slaves who are their Property, and have hitherto been ſupported by cultivating the ſaid Land: And whereas it might tend to ameliorate the Condition of the ſaid Negro Slaves if they could by Law be tranſported to certain of His Majeſty's Poſſeſſions on the Continent of *South America*, to which by Law they cannot now be tranſported; be it enacted, That from and after the paſſing this Act, it ſhall and may be lawful for His Majeſty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to grant Licences for the Tranſportation of ſuch Slaves from any of the ſaid Iſlands to any of the ſaid Poſſeſſions on the Continent of *South America*, under certain Regulations and Reſtrictions, to be hereinafter provided: Provided always, that no ſuch Licence ſhall be granted unleſs upon a Repreſentation to His Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council, from the Proprietor of ſuch Negro Slaves, who ſhall be required to produce ſatisfactory Proof that the ſaid Slaves may be ſo tranſported without Diſadvantage to themſelves, and unleſs he ſhall enter into Bond to remove the ſaid Negro Slaves in Families.

Allowing Slaves to be tranſported thence to South America.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for His Majeſty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to make ſuch further Rules and Regulations, with reſpect to the Tranſport and Deſtination of any ſuch Negroes, with ſuch Penalties and Forfeitures for the Breach thereof, as ſhall ſeem fit and neceſſary to His Majeſty, by and with the Advice aforeſaid.

His Majeſty in Council to make further Rules and Orders.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it ſhall not be lawful for any Perſon or Perſons to embark, ſhip, export, or carry upon the Sea, any Slave or Slaves from any ſuch Settlement or Territory, now belonging to, or under the Dominion, or in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty, on the Continent of *South America*, to any other Country, Iſland, Territory, or Place whatever, whether under the Dominion of His Majeſty, or of any Foreign Sovereign, State, or Power; any Thing in the ſaid recited Acts or either of them, or in any other Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithſtanding: Provided alſo, that nothing herein-before contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to prohibit or prevent the embarking, ſhipping, exporting, or carrying by Sea any Slave or Slaves from any ſuch Settlement or Territory of or belonging to, or under the Dominion, or in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty, on the Continent of *South America*, to any other Settlement or Territory now belonging to, or under the Dominion, or in the Poſſeſſion of His Majeſty, on the ſaid Continent of *South America*, ſo as that ſuch Slaves are embarked, ſhipped, and ſo carried by Sea, under and ſubject and according to all the Reſtrictions, Regulations, Penalties, and Forfeitures in the ſaid recited Acts or either of them contained, in relation to the carrying of Slaves from one Iſland, Colony, or Plantation belonging to His Majeſty, to any other Iſland, Colony, or Plantation belonging to His Majeſty: Provided alſo, that nothing herein-before contained ſhall prevent or be conſtrued to prevent any Slave from being employed either in Navigation, Fiſhing, or any other his ordinary Buſineſs or Occupation upon the Seas, in the ſame Manner as Slaves may now be employed in any *Britiſh Weſt India* Iſland, in Numbers not exceeding in any one Boat or Veſſel thoſe uſually employed in navigating ſuch Veſſels or Boats: Provided alſo, that nothing herein-before contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to prevent any Slave who ſhall be really and truly the domeſtic Servant of any Perſon

Regulations as to the Conveyance of Slaves from one Settlement to another by Sea.

Person residing or being in any such Settlement or Territory, now belonging to, or under the Dominion, or in the Possession of His Majesty as aforesaid, from attending his or her Owner, or Master, or Mistress, or any Part of his or her Family, by Sea to any Place whatever, in the same Manner and under the same Regulations as are prescribed by any of the said recited Acts as to Slaves attending their Masters from any *British West India* Island.

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