

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XLVII.

An Act to indemnify Persons who shall give Evidence before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal on the Bill for preventing Bribery and Corruption at the Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Barnstaple*, in the County of *Devon*. [22d *June* 1819.]

WHEREAS the Commons of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* in Parliament assembled have passed a Bill, intituled *An Act for the preventing of Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of* Barnstaple, *in the County of* Devon: And whereas it is alledged that there hath been notorious Bribery and Corruption at Elections of Burgesses, or to procure the Election of Burgesses, to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *Barnstaple*: And whereas it is necessary to examine as Witnesses at the Bar of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in respect of such alledged Bribery and Corruption, several Persons not having been Candidates or a Candidate for the said Borough: And whereas the Evidence of such Persons may lead to Disclosures tending to expose them to Penal Consequences: And whereas it is expedient to indemnify such Persons, as they are herein-after indemnified, upon their truly and faithfully making such Disclosure and Discovery as herein-after mentioned; 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,

Persons implicated in Bribery, not being Candidates, examined as Witnesses and making a faithful Disclosure, shall be indemnified.

assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That for the more effectually prosecuting the said Enquiry, that all and every Person and Persons, not having been Candidates or a Candidate for the said Borough, who may or hath been or may have been implicated or engaged in such alledged Bribery and Corruption, at or connected with any Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *Barnstaple*, and who shall be examined as Witnesses or a Witness at the Bar of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal touching such alledged Bribery and Corruption, and who shall upon such Examination make a true and faithful Discovery and Disclosure, to the best of his, her, or their Knowledge touching all Acts, Matters, and Things to which he, she, or they shall be so examined, shall be, and he, she, and they is and are hereby freed, indemnified, and discharged of, from, and against all penal Actions, Forfeitures, Punishments, Disabilities, and Incapacities, and all criminal Prosecutions, which he, she, or they may have been or may become liable or subject to, or which he, she, or they may have incurred or may incur, at the Suit of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or any other Person or Persons, for or by reason or means of or in relation to any Act, Matter, or Thing done or committed by such Person or Persons in respect of such alledged Bribery and Corruption, respecting or concerning which such Person or Persons shall be so examined as aforesaid, and shall make such true and faithful Discovery and Disclosure as aforesaid.

Not to extend to Persons giving false Evidence, or suppressing any Matter in Question.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That this Act or any Thing herein contained shall not extend or be deemed or construed to extend to give any Benefit or Advantage to, or to indemnify, free, or discharge any Person or Persons from or against any Forfeitures, Penalties, Punishments, Disabilities, or Incapacities, or any Prosecutions, who, being examined as aforesaid, shall give any false Evidence, or make any false Discovery, or suppress or refuse fully and truly to disclose any Act, Matter, or Thing within his, her, or their Knowledge, touching or concerning which such Person or Persons shall be so examined as aforesaid; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

In Cases of Actions, Copies of Entries of Examination may be given in Evidence.

III. Provided always, That it shall be lawful for all Persons who shall be so examined as aforesaid, upon any Action or Prosecution commenced or instituted, or to be commenced or instituted, of or in respect of any of the Matters to which they shall be so examined as aforesaid, to give in Evidence upon the Trial of such Action or Prosecution Copies of the Entries contained in the Journals of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of such their several Examinations; and that such Copies shall be conclusive Evidence, upon the Trial of all such Actions and Prosecutions, of the Fact of the Examination of such Persons, and of the Questions proposed to such Persons, and of the Answers given by them to such Questions.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1819.