ANNO SEXTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

C A P. LXIII.

An Act to make further Provisions for the Regulation of Cotton Mills and Factories, and for the better Preservation of the Health of young Persons employed therein. [22d *June* 1825.]

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Forty-second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for the Preservation of the Health and Morals of Apprentices, and others, employed in Cotton and other Mills, and Cotton and other Factories:* 42 G.3. c.73. And whereas another Act was passed in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty, intituled *An Act to make further Provisions for the Regulation of Cotton Mills and Factories, and for the better Preservation of the Health of young Persons employed therein:* 59 G.3. c.66. And whereas it is expedient that some further Provision should made for the Regulation of Mills, Manufactories, and Buildings employed in the Preparation and Spinning of Cotton Wool; 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 from and after the First Day of *August* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-five,

Limiting the Age and Hours of

young Persons working in Cotton Mills and Factories.

no Person, being under the Age of Sixteen Years, shall be employed in any Description of Works whatsoever, in spinning Cotton Wool into Yarn, or in the previous Preparation of such Wool, or in cleaning of any Mill, Manufactory, or Building, or any Millwork or Machinery therein, for more than Twelve Hours in any One Day, exclusive of the necessary Time for Meals, such Twelve Hours to be between the Hours of Five of the Clock in the Morning and Eight of the Clock in the Evening.

Limiting the Hours of Work on the Saturday.

II. And be it further enacted, That no Person under the Age above-mentioned shall be worked in any Cotton Mill or Factory more than Nine Hours on a *Saturday*; such Nine Hours to be completed between the Hours of Five of the Clock in the Morning and Half past Four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

Directing the Hour and Time to be allowed for Breakfast and Dinner.

III. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to every such Person, in the Course of every Day, not less than Half an Hour to Breakfast, and not less than One Hour for Dinner; such Half Hour for Breakfast to be between the Hours of Half past Six of the Clock and Ten of the Clock in the Morning, and such Hour for Dinner to be between the Hours of Eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon and Three of the Clock in the Afternoon; and during such before-mentioned Half Hour for Breakfast, and such One Hour for Dinner, no such Person shall be required to perform any Labour or Work of the Nature or Description above mentioned in any such Mill, Manufactory, or Building.

Providing for unavoidable Loss of Time in case of Accident happening to Engines, &c.;

IV. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That if at any Time, in any such Mill, Manufactory, or Buildings, Time shall be lost in consequence of any Accident happening to the Steam Engine, Water Wheels, or Mill Gearing, then and in every such Case, and so often as the same shall happen, it shall be lawful for the Occupier of any such Mill, Manufactory, or Building, to extend the before-mentioned Time of daily Labour, after the Rate of One additional Hour in any One Day, until such lost Time shall have been worked up during the Six following Days, (*Saturday* excepted), but no longer.

and in case of a Want of a proper Supply of Water.

V. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That if at any Time in any such Mill, Manufactory, or Buildings as are situated upon Streams of Water, Time shall be lost in consequence of the Want of a due Supply or of an Excess of Water, then and in every such Case, and so often as the same shall happen, it shall be lawful for the Occupier of any such Mill, Manufactory, or Building, to extend the before-mentioned Time of daily Labour after the Rate of Half an Hour *per* Day, until such lost Time shall have been made good, but no longer.

Ceilings and Walls to be washed.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the Ceilings and interior Walls of every such Mill, Manufactory, or Building, shall be washed with Quick Lime and Water once in every Year.

VII. And be it further enacted, That in a conspicuous Part of every such Mill, Manufactory, or Building, a Copy of this Act, or a full and true Abstract of the Regulations provided hereby, shall be hung up and affixed and signed by the Proprietors, Manager, or Overseer of such Mill, Manufactory, or Building; and that such Copy or Abstract shall be kept and renewed, so that the same shall be at all Times legible.

Copy of this Act to be hung up in every Mill or Manufactory.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That every Occupier or Foreman of any such Cotton Mill, Manufactory, or Building, who shall knowingly act contrary to or offend against any of the Provisions of this Act, or any of the Provisions of the above recited Acts, shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds, nor less than Ten Pounds, at the Discretion of the Justices before whom such Offender shall be convicted; One Half whereof shall be paid to the Informer, and the other Half to the Overseers of the Poor in *England*, to the Churchwardens in *Ireland*, and to the Ministers and Elders in *Scotland*, of the Parish or Place where such Offence shall be committed, to be by them applied in aid of the Poor Rate in *England*, and for the Benefit of the Poor in *Ireland* and *Scotland* of such Parish or Place: Provided always, that no Sum exceeding One hundred Pounds in the Whole shall be levied for any Number of Offences under this Act committed in the same Day in any One Mill or Establishment; and that all Informations for Offences against the said recited Acts or this Act shall be laid within Two Calendar Months subsequently to the Offence being committed, and not afterwards: Provided also, that no Person shall be prosecuted for more than One Offence committed on the same Day in any One Mill or Establishment, without the Sanction and Authority of the Justices at Quarter Sessions assembled; and that all Penalties inflicted by this Act shall be levied and recovered in manner directed by the said first recited Act.

Penalty on Masters or Mistresses offending against this or the former Acts.

Application of Penalty.

Limiting the Time for Informations.

IX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That every Proprietor, or Occupier of any Mill, Manufactory, or Building hereinbefore described, wherein Children under the Age above-mentioned, that is to say, Sixteen Years of Age, are or shall be employed in spinning Cotton Wool into Yarn, or in the previous Preparation thereof, shall provide or cause to be provided a Book or Books, to be kept by himself or herself, or by some Person appointed by him or her, for the Entry of the Name of every Child, previous to his or her being employed in any such Mill, Manufactory, or Building for the Purpose aforesaid, whom any such Proprietor or Occupier may consider under the Age of Nine Years, together with the Names of the Parents or Guardians of any such Child; and that the Signature of such Parents or Guardians, or One of them, when so entered in the said Book or Books, specifying the Date of such Entry, and that the said Child or Children is or are of, or above, the Age of Nine Years, shall in all such Cases exempt such Proprietor or Occupier of such Mill, Manufactory, or Building from any Prosecution under the Provisions of this Act, in so far as relates to the Penalties imposed on Persons employing Children under the aforesaid Age of Nine Years, for any of the Purposes aforesaid.

A Book to be kept for registering the Entry of every Child in the Mill.

Such Book to be a sufficient Voucher of the Age of the Children employed.

X. Pro-

Justices interested not to act.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Justice of the Peace, being also a Proprietor or Master of any Cotton Mill or Factory, or the Father or Son of any such Proprietor or Master, shall act as such Justice under this Act.

Justices empowered to summon Witnesses;

XI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any One or more Justices of the Peace, before whom any such Complaint and Information shall be made as aforesaid, and he and they are hereby authorized and required, at the Request in Writing of any of the Parties, to issue his or their Summons to any Witness or Witnesses to appear and give Evidence before any Two Justices at the Time and Place appointed for hearing and determining such Complaint, and which Time and Place shall be specified in such Summons;

and to punish Witnesses not giving Evidence.

or offer some reasonable Excuse for the Default, or appearing according to such Summons, shall not submit to be examined as a Witness, and give his or her Evidence before such Justices, touching the Matter of such Complaint, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for such Justices, and they are hereby authorized (Proof on Oath, which Oath either of such Justices are hereby empowered to administer, in the Case of any Person not appearing according to such Summons, having been first made before such Justices of the due Service of such Summons on every such Person, by delivering the same to him or her, or by leaving the same Forty-eight Hours before the Time appointed for such Person to appear before such Justices, at the usual Place of Abode of such Person) by Warrant under the Hands of such Justices, in the Form and to the Effect of the Form in the Schedule to this Act annexed, to commit such Person so making Default in appearing, or appearing and refusing to give Evidence, to some Prison within the Jurisdiction of such Justices, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, for any Time not exceeding Two Calendar Months, or until such Person shall submit himself or herself to be examined, and give his or her Evidence before such Justices as aforesaid: Provided always, that in case such Complaint shall be heard and determined before such Offender shall submit to be examined and give Evidence as aforesaid, then and in every such Case he, she, or they shall be imprisoned the full Term of such Commitment.

The Form of Convictions and Commitment to be as in the Schedule.

XII. And be it further enacted, That the Justices before whom any Person shall be convicted of any Offence against this Act, or by whom any Person shall be committed to Prison for not appearing as a Witness, or not submitting to be examined, shall cause all such Convictions, and the Warrants or Orders for such Commitments, to be drawn up in the Form or to the Effect set forth in the Schedule to this Act annexed.

No Appeal to be allowed.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That no Appeal shall be allowed against any Conviction under this Act.

General Issue.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Action shall be brought against any Person, for any Matter or Thing whatsoever done or committed under or by virtue or in the Execution of this Act, such Person may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter

Matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff shall become nonsuited or suffer Discontinuance, or forbear further Prosecution, or if Judgment shall be given for the Defendant, such Defendant shall recover his full Costs, for which he shall have like Remedy as in Cases where Costs by Law are given to Defendants. Costs.

XV. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Powers, Provisions, Exemptions, Penalties, Forfeitures, Payments, Remedies, Matters, and Things respectively contained in the said herein-before recited Acts (save and except such Parts thereof as are expressly varied, altered, or otherwise provided for by this Act), shall respectively be as good, valid, and effectual for carrying this Act into Execution, as if the same had respectively been repeated and re-enacted in the Body of this Act. Recited Acts extended to this Act.

SCHEDULE to which this Act refers.

Form of a Commitment of a Person summoned as a Witness.

WHEREAS *C. D.* hath been duly summoned to appear and give Evidence before us (*naming the Justices who issued the Summons*), Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County (*or* Riding, Division, City, Liberty, Town, or Place) of on this Day of at being the Time and Place appointed for hearing and determining the Complaint made on the Oath of (*the Informer or Prosecutor*) before us against *A. B.* of having (*stating the Offence as laid in the Information*), contrary to the Statute made in the Sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled (*here insert the Title of this Act*): And whereas the said *C. D.* hath not appeared before us, at the Time and Place aforesaid specified for that Purpose, or offered any reasonable Excuse for his Default (*or* And whereas the said *C. D.* having appeared before us, at the Time and Place aforesaid specified for that Purpose, hath not submitted to be examined as a Witness and give his Evidence before us, touching the Matter of the said Complaint, but hath refused so to do) therefore we, the said Justices, do hereby in pursuance of the Statute, commit the said *C. D.* to the (*describing the Prison*) there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for his Contempt aforesaid, until he shall submit himself to be examined and give his Evidence before us touching the Matter of the said Complaint, or shall otherwise be discharged by due Course of Law; and you the (*Constable or other Peace Officer or Officers to whom the Warrant is directed*), are hereby authorized and required to take into your Custody the Body of the said *C. D.* and him safely to convey to the said Prison, and him there to deliver to the Gaoler or Keeper thereof, who

who is hereby authorized and required to receive into his Custody the Body of the said *C. D.* and him safely to detain and keep, pursuant to this Commitment. Given under our Hands, this
Day of in the Year of our Lord

(*This Commitment to be directed to the proper Peace Officer, and the Gaoler or Keeper of the Prison.*)

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