

ANNO PRIMO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

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CAP. LXXIV.

An Act to prevent Bribery and Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *East Retford*. [23d *July* 1830.]

WHEREAS there has been the most notorious, long continued, and general Corruption in the Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *East Retford* in the County of *Nottingham*: And whereas such Bribery and Corruption is likely to continue and be practised in the said Borough in future, unless some Means are taken to prevent the same: In order, therefore, to prevent such unlawful Practices for the future, and that the said Borough may from henceforth be duly represented in Parliament, May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it 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 henceforth it shall and may be lawful to and for every Freeholder, being above the Age of Twenty-one Years, who shall have, within the Hundred of *Bassetlaw* in the County of *Nottingham*, or in any Place or Places locally situate within the outside Boundary or Limit of the said Hundred of *Bassetlaw*, or surrounded by such Boundary and any Part of the County of *York* or County of *Lincoln*, a Freehold of the clear yearly Value of Forty Shillings, to give his Vote at every Election of a Burgess or Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *East Retford*: Provided always, that all Places

Freeholders of Bassetlaw to vote at Elections for East Retford.

locally situate within the external Boundary or Limit of the said Hundred of *Bassetlaw*, or surrounded by such Boundary, and by any Part of the County of *York* or County of *Lincoln*, shall be deemed and taken to be Part of the said Hundred for the Purposes of this Act.

Right of Election.

II. And be it further enacted, That the Right of Election of a Member or Members to serve in Parliament for the said Borough of *East Retford* shall be and is hereby declared to be in such Freeholders as aforesaid, and in the Persons who, by the Custom and Usage of the said Borough, have or shall hereafter have a Right to vote at such Election, (excepting always Persons who may have been made Freemen by Redemption since the last Return of Burgesses to serve in Parliament, and Persons who may hereafter be made Freemen by Redemption;) and the proper Officer for the Time being, to whom the Return of every Writ or Precept does belong, is hereby required to return the Person or Persons to serve in Parliament for the said Borough who shall have the major Number of Votes of such Freeholders and other Persons having a Right to vote at such Election, any Law or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that such Freeholders only shall be entitled to vote as shall be duly qualified to vote at Elections for Knights of the Shire for the said County of *Nottingham* according to the Laws now in being for regulating County Elections.

Freeholder's Oath.

III. And be it further enacted, That every such Freeholder, before he is admitted to poll at any Election for the said Borough, shall, if required by the Candidates, or any of them, or any other Person having a Right to vote at the said Election, first take the Oath, or, being One of the People called *Quakers*, the solemn Affirmation following; *videlicet*,

'I *A. B.* do swear [*or, being a Quaker*, do solemnly affirm], That I am a Freeholder in the Hundred of *Bassetlaw* in the County of *Nottingham*, or in a Place thereunto annexed for the Purposes of an Act of Parliament made in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act*], and have a Freehold Estate consisting of [*specifying the Nature thereof, and if it consists in Messuages, Lands, Tenements, or Tithes, in whose Occupation the same are, and if in Rent Charge, the Names of the Owners or Possessors of the Tenements out of which such Rent is issuing, or of some of them*], situate, lying, or being at in the Hundred of *Bassetlaw*, or in some Place or Places annexed thereunto for the Purposes of the said Act, of the clear yearly Value of Forty Shillings, over and above all Rents and Charges payable out of or in respect of the same; and that I have been in the actual Possession or Receipt of the Rents and Profits thereof for my own Use above Twelve Calendar Months, [*or* that the same came to me within the Time aforesaid by Descent, Marriage, Marriage Settlement, Devise, or Promotion to a Benefice in a Church, or by Promotion to an Office,] and that such Freehold Estate has not

'been granted or made over to me fraudulently on purpose to 'qualify me to give my Vote; and that the Place of my Abode is 'at in and that I am 'Twenty-one Years of Age, as I believe; and that I have not been 'polled before at this Election.'

Which Oath or solemn Affirmation the proper Officer to whom the Return of any Writ or Precept for such Election shall belong is hereby empowered and required to administer; and in case any Freeholder or other Person taking the said Oath or Affirmation hereby appointed shall thereby commit wilful Perjury, and shall be thereof convicted, or if any Person shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any Freeholder or other Person to take the said Oath or Affirmation in order to be polled, whereby he shall commit such wilful Perjury, and shall be thereof convicted, he and they for every such Offence respectively shall incur such Penalties as are by Law inflicted on Persons guilty of Perjury or Subornation of Perjury. Punishment for Perjury.

IV. And be it further enacted, That such proper Officer to whom any Writ or Precept shall be directed for making any Election for the said Borough shall, upon the Receipt of such Writ or Precept, indorse upon the Back thereof the Day of his Receipt thereof, in the Presence of the Party from whom he received such Precept, and shall forthwith cause public Notice to be given within the said Borough of *East Retford*, and the several Towns of *Worksop*, *Tuxford*, and *Ollerton*, by affixing up a Notice thereof, and of the Day of Election, in Writing, on the Market Houses, or on the Doors of the Churches in the said Towns, and shall proceed to Election thereupon within the Space of Twelve Days, and not less than Eight Days, after his Receipt of the said Precept. Duty of returning Officer upon Receipt of the Writ.

V. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be publicly read at every Election for the said Borough of *East Retford*, immediately after the Acts directed by any Act of Parliament to be read thereat, and before the Persons present shall proceed to make such Election. Act to be read at Elections.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1830.