CAP. XXIII.

An Act to shorten the Time required for assembling Parliament after a Dissolution thereof. [17th *June* 1852.]

'WHEREAS the Time required by Law to intervene between the Date of the Proclamation for assembling Parliament and the Day appointed for the Meeting thereof 'may be reasonably shortened:' Be it declared and enacted, therefore, by the Queen'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 so often as Her Majesty shall, by Her Royal Proclamation, appoint a Time for the First Meeting of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* after a Dissolution thereof, the Time so to be appointed may be any Time not less than Thirty-five Days after the Date of such Proclamation, the Act of the Fifth Year of Queen *Anne*, Chapter Eight, or the Act of the Seventh and Eighth Years of *William* the Third, Chapter Twenty-five, or any other Law or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Parliament may be appointed to meet 35 Days after the Date of the Proclamation.

CAP. XXIV.

An Act for the Amendment of an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen *Victoria*, intituled *An Act for the Amendment of the Laws with respect to Wills*. [17th *June* 1852.]

'WHEREAS the Laws with respect to the Execution of Wills require further Amendment:' Be it therefore enacted by the Queen'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 (as follows):

I. Where by an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen *Victoria*, intituled *An Act for the Amendment of the Laws with respect to Wills*, it is enacted, that no Will shall be valid unless it shall be signed at the Foot or End thereof by the Testator, or by some other Person in his Presence, and by his Direction: Every Will shall, so far only as regards the Position of the Signature of the Testator, or of the Person signing for him as aforesaid, be deemed to be valid within the said Enactment, as explained by this Act, if the Signature shall be so placed at or after, or following, or under, or beside, or opposite to the End of the Will, that it shall be apparent on the Face of the Will that the Testator intended to give Effect by such his Signature to the Writing signed as his Will, and that no such Will shall be affected by the Circumstance that the Signature shall not follow or be immediately after the Foot or End of the Will, or by the Circumstance that a blank Space shall intervene between the concluding Word of the Will and the Signature, or by the Circumstance that the Signature shall be placed among the Words of the Testimonium Clause or of the Clause of Attestation, or shall follow or be after or under the Clause of Attestation, either with or without a blank Space intervening, or shall follow or be after, or under, or beside the Names or One of the Names of the subscribing Witnesses, or by the Circumstance that the Signature shall be on a Side or Page or other Portion of the Paper or Papers containing the Will whereon no Clause or Paragraph or disposing Part of the Will shall be written above the Signature, or by the Circumstance that there shall appear to be sufficient Space on or at the Bottom of the preceding Side or Page or other Portion of the same Paper on which the Will is written to contain the Signature; and the Enumeration of the above Circumstances shall not restrict the Generality of the above Enactment; but no Signature under the said Act or this Act shall be operative to give Effect to any Disposition or Direction which is underneath or which follows it, nor shall it give Effect to any Disposition or Direction inserted after the Signature shall be made.

1 Vict. c. 26.

When Signature to a Will shall be deemed valid.

II. The

II. The Provisions of this Act shall extend and be applied to every Will already made, where Administration or Probate has not already been granted or ordered by a Court of competent Jurisdiction in consequence of the defective Execution of such Will, or where the Property, not being within the Jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts, has not been possessed or enjoyed by some Person or Persons claiming to be entitled thereto in consequence of the defective Execution of such Will, or the Right thereto shall not have been decided to be in some other Person or Persons than the Persons claiming under the Will, by a Court of competent Jurisdiction, in consequence of the defective Execution of such Will. Act to extend to certain Wills already made.

III. The Word "Will" shall in the Construction of this Act be interpretad in like Manner as the same is directed to be interpreted under the Provisions in this Behalf contained in the said Act of the First Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen *Victoria*. Interpretation of "Will."

IV. This Act may be cited as "The Wills Act Amendment Act, 1852." Short Title of Act.

CAP. XXV.

An Act to amend an Act for registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in *England*. [17th *June* 1852.]

'WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Sixth and Seventh Years of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in* England, His Majesty was empowered to provide a proper Office in *London* or *Westminster*, to be called "the General Register Office," for keeping a Register of all Births, Deaths, and Marriages of His Majesty's Subjects in *England*: And whereas under the Authority of the said Act an Office, called "the General Register Office," was provided in *Somerset Place* in the *Strand*; and it has become necessary for the Public Service that such Office should be removed from *Somerset Place*, and that another Office should be provided in lieu thereof; but Doubts have arisen whether such Office ought not by the said recited Act to be provided in the City of *London* or in the City or Liberty of *Westminster*, and not elsewhere;' to remove which Doubts, may it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be it enacted; and be it enacted by the Queen'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 it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors, from Time to Time to provide a proper Office, to be called "The General Register Office," in such Place or Places as may appear to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the Time being to be fit and convenient for the Purpose, anything in the said recited Act or in any other Act of Parliament, or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding. 6 & 7 W. 4. c. 86. For providing a General Register Office.

CAP. XXVI.

An Act to enable Her Majesty to carry into effect Arrangements made with Foreign Powers for the Apprehension of Seamen who desert from their Ships. [17th *June* 1852.]

'WHEREAS Arrangements have been made with certain Foreign Powers for the Recovery of Seamen deserting from the Ships of such Powers when in *British* Ports, and for the Recovery of Seamen deserting from *British* Ships when in the Ports of such Powers: And whereas it is expedient to enable Her Majesty to carry such Arrangements into effect, and likewise to enable Her Majesty to carry into effect any similar Arrangements of a like Nature which may be made hereafter:' Be it enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

I. Whenever