ANNO TRICESIMO & TRICESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. LXVIII.

An Act to provide for the better Despatch of Business in the Chambers of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Common Law.

[25th *July* 1867.]

WHEREAS a great Part of the Business in the Chambers of the Judges of the Three Superior Courts of Common Law at *Westminster* might with Advantage to the Public be disposed of by the Masters of the said Courts:

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:

A Majority of Judges may make Rules empowering the Masters to transact Business at Chambers.

1. It shall be lawful for a Majority of all the Judges of the said Courts, which Majority shall include the Two Chief Justices or One of the Chief Justices and the Chief Baron, from Time to Time to make and publish General Rules for the following Purposes; that is to say:

(1.) For empowering the Masters of the said Courts, or some One or more of them, to do any such Thing and to

transact any such Business, and to exercise any such Authority and Jurisdiction in respect of the same, as by virtue of any Statute or Custom, or by the Rules and Practice of the said Courts or any of them respectively, are now done, transacted, or exercised by a Judge of the said Courts sitting at Chambers, and as shall be specified in any such Rule, except in respect of Matters relating to the Liberty of the Subject:

(2.) For regulating the Attendance of the said Masters at Chambers, the Course of Practice to be there pursued, and the Scale of Costs to be there adopted:

(3.) For fixing, with the Sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Table of Fees to be taken in respect of Business to be transacted before the said Masters at Chambers, and for abolishing or altering from Time to Time (with the like Sanction) such Table of Fees.

Rules to be read in open Court. Copy to be sent to the Lord Chancellor, and to be published in the London Gazette.

2. Every Rule to be made under this Act shall be read aloud in open Court in each of the said Courts Ten clear Days at least before the Day fixed for such Rule coming into operation, and within One Month after that Day a Copy of every such Rule shall be transmitted by the Lord Chief Justice of *England* to the Lord High Chancellor, and shall also be published in the *London Gazette*.

Rules to be laid before Parliament.

3. Every Rule to be made under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within One Month after the making thereof if Parliament be then sitting, or, if Parliament be not then sitting, within One Month after the Commencement of the next Session of Parliament.

Right of Appeal from Orders of the Master.

4. Every Order or Decision made or given under this Act by any Master sitting at Chambers shall be as valid and binding on all Parties concerned as if the same had been made or given before the passing of this Act by a Judge sitting at Chambers: Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any Person affected by any Order or Decision of the Master forthwith, or within such Time as from Time to Time shall be appointed by any Rule or Rules to be made under this Act, and subject to such Conditions as to Costs as may be provided under any such Rule or Rules, to appeal from such Decision to a Judge sitting at Chambers.

5. So much of the Eleventh Section of the Statute made and passed in the First Year of Her present Majesty, Chapter Thirty, as provides that no Appointment of any Master shall take place by the Lord Chief Justice or Lord Chief Baron until Ten Days after the Certificate in such Clause mentioned shall have been laid before both Houses of Parliament, shall be and the same is hereby repealed. Repeal of Part of s. 11. of 1 Vict. c. 30.

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1867.