ANNO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Sess. 2.

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C A P. XXXI.

An Act to indemnify Witnesses who may give Evidence before the Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire "whether corrupt Compromises have been entered into in the Cases of Election Petitions presented from *Harwich, Nottingham, Lewes, Penryn* and *Falmouth, Bridport,* and *Reading,* for the Purpose of avoiding Investigation into gross Bribery alleged to have been practised at the Elections for the aforesaid Towns, and whether such Bribery has really taken place." [18th *June* 1842.]

WHEREAS the Commons of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* in Parliament assembled have appointed a Committee to inquire "whether corrupt Compromises have been entered into in the Cases of Election Petitions presented from *Harwich, Nottingham, Lewes, Penryn* and *Falmouth, Bridport,* and *Reading,* for the Purpose of avoiding Investigation

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into gross Bribery alleged to have been practised at the Elections for the aforesaid Towns, and whether such Bribery has really taken place:" And whereas the Object of the Appointment of the said Committee may be better accomplished, and the Truth of the several Matters connected therewith be more effectually discovered, if such Committee shall have the Power of indemnifying the Persons who may give Evidence before it touching the same: 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, That it shall be lawful for the Committee appointed in pursuance of the said Resolution to give to any Person examined by or before it a Certificate in Writing, signed by the Chairman authorized by the Committee, stating that such Person, upon his or her Examination, appears to have made a true and faithful Disclosure touching all Acts or Matters to which he or she has been so examined, and such Person so receiving such Certificate shall be and is hereby freed, indemnified, and discharged of, from, and against all penal Actions, Forfeitures, Punishments, Disabilities, Incapacities, and all Criminal Prosecutions, which he or she may have been or may become liable or subject to, or which he or she may have incurred or may incur, at the Suit of Her Majesty, Her 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 in respect of the withdrawing, or of having withdrawn, compromised, or abandoned any Election Petition or Petitions relating to the Boroughs or Places before mentioned, or in anywise relating thereto, or to any Bribery, Corruption, or Intimidation touching which he or she shall have been examined by or before the said Committee.

Committee may grant a Certificate of Indemnity to any Person examined before them.

II. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

Act may be amended this Session.

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