CAP. XCV.

An Act for rendering more effective the Services of such Out-Pensioners of *Chelsea* Hospital as shall be called out to assist in preserving the Public Peace.

[24th *August* 1843.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient that Her Majesty should be empowered to give Orders for organizing and equipping certain of the Out-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital at *Chelsea*, for the Purpose of rendering them more efficient when called out to assist in preserving the Public Peace;' 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 from Time to Time, by Her Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, to order that such and so many of the Out-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital at *Chelsea*, resident within any County or other District specified in such Warrant, as to Her Majesty shall seem fit, shall be enrolled as a local Force for the Preservation of the Peace, and from Time to Time to alter the Extent of any such District, and to raise or lessen the Number of Pensioners so to be enrolled, in such Manner as to Her Majesty shall seem fit; and any Pensioner while so enrolled shall not be liable to serve on any Jury, nor to serve the Office of Constable, or any other Parochial, Township, or Borough Office: Provided always, that the whole Number of Pensioners so to be enrolled in the United Kingdom shall not at any One Time exceed Ten thousand Men: Provided also, that every Out-Pensioner shall be entitled to all the Benefits of the Provisions contained in all such Orders and Regulations made by Her Majesty or Her Predecessors as were in force at the Time of his enlisting.

Her Majesty may order any Out-Pensioners to be enrolled as a local Force.

The Number not to exceed 10,000.

II. And be it enacted, That, in default of any special Provision to the contrary, the Staff Officers or other Persons duly appointed by the Secretary at War to pay the Out-Pensioners of *Chelsea* Hospital shall act as the Commandants of the Pensioners enrolled within their respective Districts; and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to appoint to such Force such other Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Her Majesty's Regular Forces or Militia, whether from Full or Half Pay or from the Pension List, as may be deemed expedient, and to put the Whole or any Part of the Force under the Command of such General or other Superior Officers of Her Majesty's Regular Forces as Her Majesty shall please to appoint.

Staff Officers to act as Commandants in default of special Provision.

Other Officers.

III. And be it enacted, That all or any of the Pensioners so enrolled as aforesaid may be provided with Arms, Clothing, and Accoutrements, and mustered within their respective Districts for Inspection on such Days, not exceeding Eight in each Year, as Her Majesty through One of Her Principal Secretaries

Arms and Accoutrements to be provided.

Secretaries of State for the Time being shall order; and it shall be lawful for such Secretary of State, or in case of Emergency any Person or Persons bearing the Warrant of the Secretary of State for that Purpose, at any Time to call out the whole or such and so many of such enrolled Pensioners as he or they may deem necessary to aid the Civil Power in the Preservation of the Public Peace within the District or within any adjoining District.

Pensioners may volunteer for Garrison Duty.

IV. And be it enacted, That whenever any of the Regular Forces of Her Majesty's Army may be removed from any of Her Majesty's Forts, Towns, or Garrisons within the United Kingdom, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to direct that such and so many of the said Pensioners as volunteer their Services for the Purpose may be kept on Duty and Pay, for any Period not exceeding Six Calendar Months, within such Forts, Towns, or Garrisons, in the same Way as the Regular Forces of Her Majesty's Army; and any Pensioner who shall have volunteered for such Service, and shall afterwards refuse to serve, shall be liable to Forfeiture of Pension.

Secretary at War to make Regulations.

V. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for Her Majesty to authorize Her Secretary at War for the Time being to make Regulations for the Pay of the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and enrolled Pensioners, when mustered for Inspection or called out in aid of the Civil Power as aforesaid, and also in regard to their Arms, Clothing, Equipment, and Allowances, and also for the Government of the said Force, and for the Infliction of Fines and Penalties for Absence from or Misconduct during Muster or Inspection, or for the Breach of any of the said Regulations, and for the Deduction of such Fines and Penalties from any Pay or Pension which may become due to the Offender; and all Warrants and Regulations to be issued under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within Twenty-one Days next after the Commencement of each Session; and any enrolled Pensioner who, without reasonable Excuse satisfactory to the Secretary at War, shall fail to attend when called out as aforesaid in aid of the Civil Power, shall be liable to Forfeiture of his Pension, either absolutely or for such Time as to the Secretary at War shall seem fit.

Pensioners to be subject to the Mutiny Act and Articles of War.

VI. And be it enacted, That whenever the said Pensioners shall be called out on Duty in aid of the Civil Power or for Muster or Inspection, or when any Pensioner who may have volunteered his Services for that Purpose shall be kept on Duty in any Fort, Town, or Garrison, all the Provisions of any Act then in force for the punishing of Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters, as well with regard to billetting as in all other respects whatsoever, and also the Articles of War established or to be established by Her Majesty pursuant to the Provisions of the said Act, shall extend and apply to such Pensioners, and to the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers appointed to command them; and Offences committed by such Officers, Non-commissioned

commissioned Officers, and Pensioners, or any of them, on the Occasions aforesaid, may be inquired of and tried by Court-martial assembled under the Provisions of any such Act, according to the usual Discipline of Her Majesty's Army; and Courts-martial for the Trial of any such Offences may be holden, and the Punishment awarded by any such Court-martial may be inflicted, either during the Time for which the said Pensioners shall be so on Duty, or at any Time within Twelve Calendar Months after the Offence shall have been committed or the Offender shall have been apprehended.

Penalty for damaging or selling Accoutrements, &c.

VII. And be it enacted, That every Pensioner enrolled as aforesaid, who shall carelessly lose, destroy, or damage any Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunition, or Clothing provided for him or intrusted to his Charge, shall be liable to make good the same out of his Pension, together with such Penalty, not exceeding Double the Amount of such Loss or Damage, as the Secretary at War may direct; and every such enrolled Pensioner who shall wilfully damage or destroy, or who shall sell, pawn, or otherwise unlawfully dispose of any such Arms, Accoutrements, Ammunition, or Clothing, shall be liable to Forfeiture of his Pension; and any Person knowingly purchasing or receiving the same shall, on Conviction thereof, by the Oath of any credible Witness or upon his own Confession, before any Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and in default of Payment may be imprisoned for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Field and Staff Officers exempt from Toll.

VIII. And be it enacted, That no Toll shall be demanded or taken at any Turnpike Gate or Bar, Pier, Wharf, or Landing Place, for any Horse ridden by any Field Officer or Staff Officer of Pensioners, being in Uniform, when employed on any of the Duties referred to in this Act, nor for any private or hired Vehicle necessarily used by such Officers being in Uniform, for the Conveyance of themselves and the Books and other Documents required for the Purpose of paying the Out-Pensioners at the several Stations within the District; and any Toll Collector who shall demand and take Toll from any such Officer when so employed and in Uniform shall, on Conviction thereof, by the Oath of any credible Witness or on his own Confession, before a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay for every such Offence any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds.

Act may be amended, &c.

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

CAP. XCVI.

An Act to amend the Law respecting defamatory Words and Libel. [21th *August* 1843.]

FOR the better Protection of private Character, and for more effectually securing the Liberty of the Press, and for better preventing Abuses in exercising the said Liberty, be it enacted by