ANNO OCTAVO & NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. XXXIV.

An Act for abolishing the separate Seal Office of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas. [21st *July* 1845.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Sixth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act to* 6 G. 4. c. 89. *authorize the Purchase of the Office of Receiver and Comptroller of the Seal of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, and of Custos Brevium of the Court of Common Pleas*, it was recited, that the Office of Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas was, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of *England*, dated the Thirtieth Day of *April* in the Twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, granted to *Henry* Earl of *Euston*, afterwards Duke of *Grafton*, in Tail Male, and that the Office was then held by a Person entitled thereto under the said Grant; and it was by the said Act enacted, that it should be lawful for the Commissioners of the Treasury to treat, contract, and agree with the Person beneficially entitled to the Fees, Receipts, and Profits of the said Office, for the Purchase of all the Rights, Profits, Privileges, and Advantages whatever belonging thereto, for such Annuity, to be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, as the said Commissioners should think fit; and that from and after the Confirmation of the said Agreement by Parliament the Rights and Interests of all Persons whatsoever

claiming or entitled to claim under the said recited Letters Patent should cease and determine: And whereas the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury treated, contracted, and agreed with *George Henry Fitzroy*, the late Duke of *Grafton*, who was entitled to the Office of Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, and which Contract and Agreement have been acceded to by the present Duke of *Grafton*, for the Purchase of the said Office, and of all the Rights, Profits, Privileges, and Advantages whatsoever belonging thereto, for an Annuity of Eight hundred and forty-three Pounds payable to the Duke of *Grafton*, and an Annuity of Three hundred Pounds payable to *John Pimlott*, his Deputy: 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 from and after the Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and forty-five the present Office of Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas shall wholly cease and determine; and there shall be paid to the present Duke of *Grafton* the Sum of Eight hundred and forty-three Pounds *per Annum*, and to *John Pimlott*, his Deputy, the Sum of Three hundred Pounds *per Annum*; the said Annuity to the Duke of *Grafton* to be paid to him during his Life, and at his Decease to be continued from Time to Time to such Person or Persons as would have been entitled to the Fees, Profits, and Advantages of the said Office of Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the said Courts, under the Letters Patent before recited, if the same had not been abolished by this Act; and the said Annuity to *John Pimlott* to be paid to him during his Life; and such Annuities shall commence on the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and shall be issued and paid and payable quarterly out of and be charged and chargeable upon the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

Abolition of Offices of Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal.

II. And be it enacted, That from and after the said Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and forty-five all Writs and other Processes hitherto sealed and re-sealed at the said Office of the Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas shall be sealed and re-sealed by the Masters of the said Courts respectively, and by the Queen's Coroner and Attorney and Master on the Crown Side of the Court of Queen's Bench, with the Seals or Stamps now or which may hereafter be used by them respectively in their several Offices, and with no other Seals; and all Proceedings, Acts, Matters, and Things usually had, done, and performed in the said Offices hereby abolished, and which it is requisite or needful to be continued, shall be had, done, and performed by the Masters of the said respective Courts, and by the Queen's Coroner and Attorney and Master on the Crown Side of the Court of Queen's Bench, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as the same might or would have been had, done, and performed by the said Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seals of the said Courts, or his Deputy; subject nevertheless to all such Orders and Directions as shall or

Writs, &c. in Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer to be sealed by the Masters of those Courts respectively, &c.

may from Time to Time be made by the Judges of the said Courts for regulating the Proceedings and Practice and the Receipt of Fees therein; and all Records, Books, Papers, and other Documents of and concerning the Duties of the said Offices hereby abolished, and also all Seals used therein, shall on the Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and forty-five be delivered by the said Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seal of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, or by his Deputy, to the Masters of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas respectively, and to the Queen's Coroner and Attorney and Master on the Crown Side of the Court of Queen's Bench, according to the particular Court and Office to which such Records and other Things may relate, to be by them kept and preserved in their respective Offices: Provided always, that the Fees now payable for sealing and re-sealing the said Writs and other Processes shall from and after the said Thirty-first Day of *December* One thousand eight hundred and forty-five be taken and received by the Masters of the said Courts, and by the Queen's Coroner and Master in the Crown Office, and such Fees shall be accounted for by them in the same Manner as all other Fees received in their said respective Offices. Fees.

III. And whereas certain Sums of Money, amounting to One thousand six hundred and fifty-three Pounds and Fourteen Shillings *per Annum*, have for many Years past been paid out of the Profits of his Office by the Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seals of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, by way of Rent-charge, into the Receipt of the Hanaper in the Court of Chancery, and such Payments, unless otherwise provided for, will wholly cease and determine; be it therefore enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any Three or more of them, if they shall deem it expedient, to direct the whole or any Part of the said Sum of Money to be paid to the Clerk of the Hanaper in the Court of Chancery, at such Times and in such Manner as they may think proper, out of the Fee Funds respectively of the Masters of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, into which Funds the Fees for sealing Writs and other Process issued from the said Courts will be payable upon the Abolition of the said Office of the Receiver General and Comptroller of the Seals by the Operation of this Act. Commissioners of the Treasury may direct certain Sums of Money to be paid to the Clerk of the Hanaper.

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