

ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

****

CAP. XXVI.

An Act to amend an Act of the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, respecting the Audit of the Public Accounts of *Ireland;* and to appoint the Number of Commissioners competent to grant Quietus to Public Accountants, under an Act passed in the Fifty-sixth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, for consolidating the Public Revenues of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

[22d *September* 1831.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to provide for the speedy and regular Examination and Audit of the Public Accounts of* Ireland, *and to repeal certain former Acts relating thereto*, it is among other Things enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of *Ireland*, to nominate and appoint from Time to Time such Persons as He or They shall think proper, not exceeding Five Persons at any one Time, to be Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts in *Ireland;* and it is by the said Act further enacted, that in all Cases not otherwise 52 G. 3. c. 52.

otherwise thereby expressly directed or provided, all and every Authority vested or to be vested in, and all and every Act and Acts directed or authorized to be done by, the said Commissioners, shall and may be exercised and done by any Three of them: And whereas Five Persons were duly appointed Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts in *Ireland*, pursuant to the Provisions of the said recited Act; but One of such Persons has been long since invalided, and another has died, and it has not seemed good to His gracious Majesty, with regard to the Public Service, that the Vacancies so happening should be filled up; and it has therefore become expedient that any Two Persons, being such Commissioners as aforesaid, should be enabled to exercise and execute the respective Powers, Authorities, and Duties which under the said recited Act might or ought to be exercised by Three at least of the Persons being such Commissioners as aforesaid: Be it therefore enacted by the King'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 all and every Authority vested in, and all and every Act or Acts directed or authorized to be done by, the Commissioners appointed or to be appointed under or by virtue of the Provisions of the said recited Act of the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, and which by virtue of the Provisions of the said recited Act might have been exercised or done by any Three of such Commissioners, shall and may, from and after the passing of this Act, be exercised or done by any Two of such Commissioners; and that all and every such Authority and Authorities exercised or to be exercised by, and all and every such Act and Acts done or to be done by, any Two of such Commissioners, by virtue or in execution of their Office, shall be alike valid and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if exercised or done by Three of the said Commissioners, any thing in the said recited Act or any other Act or Acts to the contrary notwithstanding.

Quorum of Commissioners under 52 G. 3. c. 52. reduced from Three to Two.

II. And whereas by an Act passed in the Fifty-sixth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to unite and consolidate into One Fund all the Public Revenues of* Great Britain *and* Ireland, *and to provide for the Application thereof to the general Service of the United Kingdom*, it is among other Things enacted, that in all Cases where the Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts in *Ireland* shall have audited and certified, or shall thereafter audit and certify, any Account whatsoever of any Public Accountant, and it shall satisfactorily appear to the said Commissioners, upon such Examination and Proof as to them shall seem expedient, that such Accountant is even and quit with the Public on such Account, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts, and they are thereby authorized and required, under their Signature, to acquit and discharge and grant a Quietus to such Public Accountant, such Acquittance, Discharge, or Quietus being of such Force and Effect as by the said last-recited Act provided; but the Number of Persons being such Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts, who are authorized and required as aforesaid to sign such Quietus, is not specified, and

56 G. 3. c. 98.

Doubts have arisen as to the Validity of any Quietus signed by fewer than the whole Number of Persons appointed Commissioners for auditing the Public Accounts under the said Act of the Fifty-second Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, hereinbefore first recited, and it is therefore proper and necessary to declare and enact as herein-after followeth; be it therefore declared and enacted, That any Quietus, Acquittance, or Discharge which has or shall at any Time before the passing of this Act have received the Signature of any Three Persons, being such Commissioners as aforesaid, or which at any Time after the passing of this Act shall receive the Signatures of any Two Persons, being such Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be in each Case respectively alike good, valid, and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if such Quietus had received the Signature of the whole Number of Persons appointed such Commissioners as aforesaid; and any Quietus so signed shall be taken and received by any Court of Law or Equity in the United Kingdom in bar of any Suit or Process against such Public Accountant who shall have received the same, for any Matter or Thing touching the Period of Account with respect to which such Acquittal, Discharge, or Quietus shall have been granted, any thing in the said recited Act of the Fifty-sixth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, or in any other Act or Acts, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Any Quietus under 56 G. 3. c. 98. valid, if before the passing of this Act it is signed by Three Commissioners, or after the passing of this Act is signed by Two Commissioners.

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