ANNO PRIMO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

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C A P. II.

An Act to provide for the Administration of the Government in case the Crown should descend to Her Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria*, Daughter of His late Royal Highness the Duke of *Kent*, being under the Age of Eighteen Years, and for the Care and Guardianship of Her Person. [23d *December* 1830.]

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WHEREAS Your Majesty, impelled by the deep Solicitude which Your Majesty feels for the Welfare of Your People, was graciously pleased to recommend from the Throne to both Houses of Parliament that they should take into their immediate Consideration the Provisions which it might be advisable to make for the Exercise of the Royal Authority in case it should please Almighty God to terminate Your Majesty's Life (for the long Continuance of which we offer up our most fervent Prayers to Heaven) before Your Majesty's Successor should have arrived at Years of Maturity, and that Your Majesty would be prepared to concur with Your Two Houses of Parliament in the Adoption of those Measures which might appear best calculated to maintain unimpaired the Stability and Dignity of Your Crown, and thereby to strengthen the Securities by which the Civil and Religious Liberties of Your Majesty's

People

People are guarded: And whereas in return for this paternal Goodness, with the most cordial Sense of Duty and Gratitude to Your Majesty for the tender Concern and Regard so uniformly and now more especially demonstrated for the Happiness of Your People, and for the Security of their Civil and Religious Liberties, we have taken this important Business into our Consideration, and, being thoroughly convinced of the Wisdom and Expediency of what Your Majesty has thought fit to recommend, are firmly and zealously determined to contribute every thing in our Power upon this Occasion to maintain unimpaired the Stability and Dignity of Your Majesty's Crown, and to confirm the Securities which guard our Civil and Religious Liberties: We therefore, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, do most humbly beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it 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 if at the Demise of His present Majesty (whom God long preserve) there shall be no Issue of His said Majesty then living born of Her present Majesty, and Her Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria* shall be then living, and under the Age of Eighteen Years, Her Royal Highness *Victoria Maria Louisa* Duchess of *Kent* shall be the Guardian, and have the Care, Tuition, and Education of the Person of Her said Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria*, until Her said Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria* shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, and shall, till such Age, have the Disposition, Ordering, and Management of all Matters and Things relating thereto; and Her said Royal Highness the Duchess of *Kent* shall, during such Minority, but no longer, have full Power and Authority, in the Name of Her said Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria*, and in Her Stead, and under the Style and Title of Regent of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to exercise and administer, according to the Laws and Constitution thereof, the Regal Power and Government of this Realm, and all the Dominions, Countries, and Territories to the Crown of the said United Kingdom belonging, and shall use, execute, and perform all Prerogatives, Authorities, and Acts of Government which belong to the King or Queen of this Realm to use, execute, or perform, according to the Laws thereof, but in such Manner, and subject to such Conditions, Restrictions, Limitations, and Regulations, as are herein-after for that Purpose specified, mentioned, and contained: Provided always, that if, after the Demise of His said Majesty, a Child of His said Majesty should be born of Her said Majesty, all the Power and Authority by this Act given and granted to Her said Royal Highness the Duchess of *Kent* shall, upon the Birth of such Child, cease and determine.

The Duchess of Kent to be the Guardian of the Princess Alexandrina Victoria until of Age, if at the Demise of His Majesty there shall be no living Issue of Her present Majesty; and during such Minority to exercise the Regal Power and Government.

Proviso, if a Child of His Majesty should be born after His Demise.

II. And be it further enacted, That if at the Demise of His said Majesty, leaving Her said Majesty Him surviving, there shall not be any Child of His said Majesty then living born of Her said Majesty, and Her Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria* shall be then living, the Privy Council shall forthwith cause Her said

If there shall not be any Child living born of Her Majesty, the Privy Council to cause Her

Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria* to be openly and solemnly proclaimed as Sovereign of this Realm, in such Manner and Form as the preceding Kings and Queens respectively have been usually proclaimed after the Demise of their respective Predecessors, but subject to and saving the Rights of any Issue of His said Majesty which may afterwards be born of Her said Majesty; and in every Case in which by Law an Oath or Declaration or Assurance of Allegiance to the Sovereign, or asserting the Title of the Sovereign, is required to be taken, made, or subscribed, there shall be added to such Oath, Declaration, and Assurance the Words following — "Saving the Rights of any Issue of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth which may be born of His late Majesty's Consort;" which Addition shall be continued until Parliament shall otherwise order.

Royal Highness Alexandrina Victoria to be proclaimed as Sovereign; but subject to and saving the Rights of any Issue of His Majesty William IV.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if at the Demise of His said Majesty there shall not be any Child of His said Majesty then living born of Her said Majesty, and Her said Majesty shall survive His said Majesty, and a Child of His said Majesty shall after the Death of His said Majesty be born of Her said Majesty, in such Case Her said Majesty shall be the Guardian, and have the Care, Tuition, and Education of the Person of such Child, until such Child shall attain the Age of Eighteen Years, and shall, till such Age, have the Disposition, Ordering, and Management of all Matters and Things relating thereto; and Her said Majesty shall, during such Minority and no longer, have full Power and Authority, in the Name of such Child, and in his or her Stead, and under the Style and Title of Regent of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to exercise and administer, according to the Laws and Constitution thereof, the Regal Power and Government of this Realm, and all the Dominions, Countries, and Territories to the Crown thereof belonging; and shall use, execute, and perform all Prerogatives, Authorities, and Acts of Government and Administration of Government which belong to the King or Queen of this Realm to use, execute, and perform, according to the Laws thereof, but in such Manner, and subject to such Conditions, Restrictions, Limitations, and Regulations, as are herein-after for that Purpose specified, mentioned, and contained.

If at the Death of His Majesty there shall not be any Child living, and a Child shall afterwards be born, Her Majesty shall be the Guardian during its Minority; and shall exercise the Regal Power and Government of the Kingdom.

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Privy Council shall, upon the Birth of such Child, without Delay, cause such Child, as the Successor entitled to the Crown of these Realms, to be openly and solemnly proclaimed, in such Manner and Form as the Kings and Queens have been usually proclaimed after the Demise of their respective Predecessors.

The Privy Council to cause such Child to be proclaimed as Successor to the Crown.

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That upon the Birth of such Child the Two Houses of Parliament shall forthwith assemble, and all the Laws and Regulations now in force in regard to the Meeting, the Sitting, the Continuance, the Prorogation, and the Dissolution of Parliament, and to the Continuance of the Privy Council, and of Persons in their Offices, Places, and Employments, upon

In case of the Birth of such Child the Houses of Parliament shall meet, and the Laws regarding the

same on the Demise of the Crown shall apply.

upon the Demise of the Crown and the Accession of the Successor, shall be deemed and taken to apply to the Succession of such Child, in the same Manner as if such Child had succeeded to the Crown upon the Demise of Her Royal Highness the Princess *Alexandrina Victoria*, and as Her Heir.

All Acts of Regal Power executed during such Regency without the Consent of the Regent declared null and void.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Acts of Regal Power, Prerogative, Government, or Administration of Government, of what Nature or Kind soever, which shall be done or executed during the Regency established by this Act, otherwise than by and with the Consent and Authority of the said Regent for the Time being, in the Manner and according to the Directions of this Act set forth and prescribed, shall be absolutely null and void to all Intents and Purposes.

The Regent to take the following Oaths:

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Regent, before She shall act or enter upon Her said Office of Regent, or within One Calendar Month after, shall take the following Oaths; (that is to say,)

'I *A.B.* do solemnly promise and swear, That I will truly and faithfully execute the Office of Regent of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, according to an Act of Parliament made in the First Year of His Majesty King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act to provide for the Administration of the Government in case the Crown should descend to Her Royal Highness the Princess* Alexandrina Victoria, *Daughter of His late Royal Highness the Duke of* Kent, *being under the Age of Eighteen Years, and for the Care and Guardianship of Her Person*; and that I will administer the Government of this Realm, and of all the Dominions thereunto belonging, according to the Laws, Customs, and Statutes thereof; and will in all Things, to the utmost of My Power and Ability, consult and maintain the Safety, Honour, and Dignity of His or Her (*as the Case shall require*) Majesty, and the Welfare of His or Her (*as the Case shall require*) People. So help me GOD.'

'I do faithfully promise and swear, That I will inviolably maintain and preserve the Settlement of the true Protestant Religion, with the Government, Discipline, Rights, and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland*, as established by Law. So help me GOD.'

Privy Council to administer the same.

Which Oaths shall be taken before the Privy Council then in being, who are hereby required and empowered to administer the same, and to enter the same in the Council Books.

The Regent, at the Time of taking the Oaths, to make the Declaration required by the Act 30 Car. 2. st. 2. and produce a

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Regent shall, at the Time of Her taking such Oaths as aforesaid, and before the Members of the Privy Council administering the same, make, subscribe, and audibly repeat the Declaration mentioned in an Act made in the Thirtieth Year of King *Charles* the Second, intituled *An Act for the more effectual preserving the King's Person and Government, by disabling Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament*, and shall produce a Certificate of Her having received the Sacrament of the Lord's

Lord's Supper in any of the Royal Chapels, signed by the Persons administering the same, which Certificate shall be sufficient Evidence of the said Regent's having received the Sacrament; and such Declaration and Certificate shall respectively be registered in the Books of the Privy Council.

Certificate of having received the Sacrament.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall not be lawful for the King or Queen of this Realm, for whom a Regent is hereby appointed, to intermarry before His or Her Age of Eighteen Years with any Person whomsoever, without the Consent in Writing of the Regent; and every Marriage so had without such Consent shall be null and void to all Intents and Purposes; and every Person who shall be acting, aiding, abetting, or concerned in obtaining, procuring, or bringing about any such Marriage, and the Person who shall be so married to such King or Queen under the Age of Eighteen Years, shall be guilty of High Treason, and suffer and forfeit as in Cases of High Treason.

Prohibiting the Marriage of such King or Queen before Eighteen Years of Age without Consent of the Regent.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Regent shall not give or have Power to give the Royal Assent to any Bill or Bills in Parliament for repealing, changing, or in any respect varying from the Order and Course of Succession to the Crown of this Realm as the same stands now established in the illustrious House of *Hanover* by the Act of the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King *William* the Third, intituled *An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown, and better securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject;* or to any Act for repealing or altering the Act made in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, intituled *An Act for the Uniformity of Public Prayers, and Administration of Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies; and for establishing the Form of making, ordaining, and consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons in the Church of* England; or one Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of Queen *Anne*, made in *Scotland*, intituled *An Act for securing the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Government.*

Restraining the Regent from giving the Royal Assent to any Bill for changing the Order of Succession, &c. 12 W. 3. c. 2. 13 & 14 Car. 2. c. 4. 1702. c. 3.

XI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if either of the Persons by this Act nominated to be Guardian and Regent as aforesaid shall at any Time marry a Person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, or if Her Royal Highness the Duchess of *Kent* shall during the Life-time of His Majesty marry, without His said Majesty's Consent, any Person other than a natural-born Subject of this Realm, She shall be and become, from and immediately after such Marriage, absolutely incapable of holding or exercising such Office of Guardian and Regent; and that if either of such Persons shall, at any Time after becoming such Guardian and Regent, marry a Person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, or, without the Consent of the Two Houses of Parliament, marry any Person other than a natural-born Subject of this Realm, or shall cease to reside in or absent Herself from the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, then and in either of such Cases such Person shall no longer be Guardian and Regent, and all the Powers and

If either of the Persons hereby nominated to be Guardian and Regent shall marry a Roman Catholic or a Foreigner, or cease to reside in the Kingdom, such Person shall no longer be Guardian and Regent.

Authorities which She may have derived under and by virtue of this Act shall thenceforth cease and determine.

In case of the Death of Her Majesty and a subsequent Marriage.

XII. Provided always, That in case of the Death of Her present Majesty, and of the subsequent Marriage of His Majesty, this Act, and all the Powers, Provisions, and Enactments thereof, shall cease and be void.

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