

CAP. XXXI.

An act for making perpetual an act for the better regulation and government of seamen in the merchants service; and for extending the provisions thereof to his Majesty's colonies in America.

Preamble.

Act of 2 Geo. II. which was continued by several subsequent acts, is made perpetual.

WHEREAS the law herein after mentioned, which both by experience, been found useful and beneficial, is near expiring, may it therefore please your most excellent 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 an act made in the second year of his late Majesty's reign, intituled, "*An act for the better regulation and government of seamen in the merchants service,*" which was to be in force for five years, from the twenty fourth day of *June*, one thousand seven hundred and twenty nine, and from thence to the end of the then next session of parliament; and which act was, by an act made in the eighth year of the reign of his said late Majesty, further continued until the twenty fifth day of *March*, one thousand seven hundred and forty nine, and from thence to the end of the then next session of parliament; and which act was, by an act made in the twenty third year of the reign of his said late Majesty, further continued until the twenty fifth day of *March*, one thousand seven hundred and sixty four, and from thence to the end of the then next session of parliament, is temporary, and near expiring; shall be, and is hereby, made perpetual.

From and after 1 May, 1764, all the provisions, penalties, matters, and things, in the said act of 2 Geo. II. are extended to his Majesty's colonies in America; and the forfeitures applicable to Greenwich hospital are to be paid there to the officer constituted by the admiralty; and masters of ships deducting any of the said forfeitures out of the seamen's wages, and not duly

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the first day of *May*, one thousand seven hundred and sixty four, all the provisions, penalties, clauses, matters, and things, contained in the said act of the second year of his said late Majesty's reign, shall be, and the same are hereby, extended to all his Majesty's colonies in *America*; and that all penalties and forfeitures to be incurred by the said act, and directed to be applied to and for the use of *Greenwich hospital*, shall be paid to such officer or officers in the said colonies, as shall on that behalf be appointed by the lord high admiral of *Great Britain*, or the commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral of *Great Britain* for the time being: and in case any masters or commanders, or owners, of any ships or vessels shall deduct out of the wages of any seaman or mariner any of the penalties and forfeitures which, by the said act, are directed to be deducted and applied to and for the use of *Greenwich hospital*, and shall not pay the money so deducted to such officer or officers so to be appointed in the port or place in the said colonies where such deduction shall be made, within three months after such deduction, every person so neglecting to pay the money deducted as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay the treble value thereof to the use of the said hospital; which, together with the money deducted paying over the same, forfeit treble the value to the use of the said hospital.

ducted as aforesaid, shall and may be recovered by the same means and methods as any penalties and forfeitures can or may be recovered by the said act.

C A P. XXXII.

An act for draining and preserving certain low lands called The Fens, lying on both sides of the river Witham, in the county of Lincoln; and for restoring and maintaining the navigation of the said river, from the High bridge in the city of Lincoln, through the borough of Boston, to the sea.

WHEREAS the river Witham, in the county of Lincoln, was Preamble, formerly navigable for lighters, barges, boats, and other vessels, from the sea, through Boston, to the High bridge in the city of Lincoln; but, by the sand and silt brought in by the tide, the outfall thereof into the sea hath, for many years last past, been greatly hindered and obstructed, and is now, in a great measure, stopped up, lost, and destroyed, and thereby great part of the low lands and fens lying on both sides of the said river (and which contain together about one hundred thousand acres) are frequently overflowed, and rendered useless and unprofitable, to the great loss of the respective owners thereof, the decay of trade and commerce, and the depopulation of the country: and whereas, in the judgment and opinion of experienced engineers, and persons of known skill and ability, the navigation of the said river Witham, and the outfall thereof into the sea, are capable of being restored and maintained, and the said low lands and fens of being drained, cultivated, and improved; but, as the necessary works, for the effecting the good purposes aforesaid, cannot be made, done, and performed, without the authority of parliament, may it therefore please your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted, &c, &c,

The boundaries of the low-lands and fens described. — Lands divided into six districts. First district, and boundaries thereof. Second district, and boundaries thereof. Third district, and boundaries thereof. Fourth district, and boundaries thereof. Fifth district, and boundaries thereof. Sixth district, and boundaries thereof. — Commissioners of districts appointed. Manner of election: first district; 2d. district; 3d. district; 4th district; 5th district; 6th district. *South Kyme* deemed a parish. — Electors may appoint deputies. — Electors to certify elections at first meeting of general commissioners for drainage. — Commissioners to direct the several works to be made within their several districts. Commissioners of the districts to meet and elect general commissioners. — General commissioners. — Commissioners for districts may adjourn their meetings. — Qualification of general commissioners — Oaths of general commissioners — Penalty on persons acting if not qualified. — Heirs apparent of 200l. *per annum*, taking the oath of office, may act as commissioners. — General commissioners may appoint agents. — Continuance of the commissioners of the districts, continuance of the general commissioners. — Commissioners of districts dying, others to be elected. General commissioners dying, others to be elected. — If new commissioners are not elected, former commissioners to continue. — First meeting of the general commissioners. — Annual meetings. — Commissioners to make contracts with workmen, &c. which are to be entered in a book. — The acre-tax for the general drainage. —