

II. Provided always, That this Act shall not extend to any Letter or Correspondence passing between Persons who are Residents of the same Town, City, or Place, nor to any Letter or Correspondence, written or so passing as aforesaid, between Persons not, at the Time of writing or sending thereof, at the actual Distance of fifty Miles from each other.

III. And be it further enacted, That all such Letters as aforesaid, which have heretofore passed between such Persons as aforesaid, may be given in Evidence in any Court of Law or Equity; any Thing in the said recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Act not to extend to the Cases herein mentioned.

All Letters which have passed between Persons as aforesaid may be given in Evidence.

C A P. LII.

An Act to continue, for a limited Time, several Acts of Parliament for regulating the shipping and carrying Slaves in *British* Vessels from the Coast of *Africa*.

WHEREAS an Act was made in the thirty-first Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled, *An Act to continue, for a limited Time, and to amend an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act to amend, and continue, for a limited Time, several Acts of Parliament for regulating the shipping and carrying Slaves in British Vessels from the Coast of Africa:"* And whereas it is expedient to continue the said Act for a limited Time; 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 it shall not be lawful for any Master or other Person taking or having the Charge or Command of any *British* Ship or Vessel whatever, which shall clear out from any Port of this Kingdom, from and after the first Day of *August* one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, to have on Board at any one Time, or to convey, carry, bring, or transport Slaves from the Coast of *Africa* to any Part beyond Sea, in any such Ship or Vessel, in any greater Number than in the Proportion of five such Slaves for every three Tons of the Burthen of such Ship or Vessel, so far as the said Ship or Vessel shall not exceed two hundred and one Tons, and moreover of one such Slave for every additional Ton of such Ship or Vessel over and above the said Burthen of two hundred and one Tons; or Male Slaves who shall exceed four Feet four Inches in Height, in any greater Number than in the Proportion of one such Male Slave to every one Ton of the Burthen of such Ship or Vessel, so far as the said Ship or Vessel shall not exceed two hundred and one Tons, and moreover of three such Male Slaves, who shall exceed the said Height of four Feet four Inches, for every additional five Tons of such Ship or Vessel, over and above the said Burthen of two hundred and one Tons; and every such Ship or Vessel shall be deemed and taken to be of such Tonnage or Burthen as is described and set forth in the respective Certificate of the Registry of each and every such Ship or Vessel, granted in pursuance of an Act made in the twenty-sixth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for the further Increase and Encouragement of Shipping and Navigation*; and if any such Master, or other Person taking or having the Charge or Command of any such Ship or Vessel, shall act contrary hereto, such Master or other Person as aforesaid shall forfeit and pay the Sum of thirty Pounds of lawful Money of *Great Britain* for each and every such Slave, exceeding in Number the Proportions herein-before limited; one Moiety whereof shall go to his Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, and the other Moiety thereof shall go to any Person or Persons who shall first sue for the same: Provided always, That if there shall be in any such Ship or Vessel any more than two fifth Parts of the Slaves who shall be Children, and who shall not exceed four Feet four Inches in Height, then every five such Children over and above the aforesaid Proportion of two Fifths shall be deemed and taken to be equal to four of the said Slaves, within the true Intent and Meaning of this Act: Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to the Case of a Ship taking on Board any Number of Slaves that shall be found shipwrecked, or from on Board any other Ship or Vessel where, by reason of Mutiny or Insurrection among the Slaves, or the Crew, or by Failure of Hands, or by any actual Distress of the Vessel, the Master or Commander shall be disabled from governing the Ship, or continuing the Voyage, the Proof of which shall lie upon the Master or other Person having Charge of such Ship or Vessel so taking on Board such Slaves.

Preamble.
31 Geo. 3. c. 54, recited.

No Vessel clearing out from Great Britain, to carry Slaves from Africa in greater Numbers than herein specified.

Vessels to be deemed of the Tonnage set forth in their Certificates of Registry.

Masters of Vessels to forfeit 30*l.* for every Slave exceeding the limited Number.

If more than two Fifths of the Slaves be Children, five of the *5*u** plus to be deemed equal to four Slaves, &c.

Masters of Vessels, before they land any Slaves in the *West Indies*, to declare upon Oath, before the Officer of the Customs, the Burthen of the Vessel, &c. and if they land Slaves contrary hereto, to forfeit 500*l.*
Officers of the Customs to take an Account of the Slaves on Board such Vessels, &c. on Penalty of 500*l.*
Where there is no Officer of the Customs, any Civil Officer to receive the Oath of the Master, &c.
No Vessel to carry any Slaves, unless entered for that Purpose at clearing out, and unless the Surgeon give Bond to keep a Journal of the Slaves during the Voyage; which Journal is to be delivered to the Officer of the Customs, at the first *British* Port of Arrival, &c. Officer to deliver to the Master a Copy of his Oath, and to the Surgeon a Copy of his Journal, and transmit Duplicates to the Commissioners of the Customs. Masters or Surgeons acting contrary hereto, to forfeit 100*l.* If Penalty on Masters be not paid within fourteen Days, their Vessels may be seized and sold. Penalties may be sued for, in any Vice Admiralty Court in *America* or the *West Indies*, where the Offence shall be committed, or the Cargo disposed of; or in any Court of Record at *Westminster*, or Court of Exchequer in *Scotland*. The upper and lower Cabin, and the Space between Decks, to be allotted to the Slaves, &c. If any Person take the Command of a Vessel, who is not qualified as herein directed, he and also the Owner shall forfeit 500*l.*
No Insurance to be made against any Loss, except the Perils of the Sea, &c. No Vessel to be cleared out that has not a Surgeon who has passed his Examination, &c. If the Officer at the Port of Discharge shall

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“ be satisfied that there have not died on the Voyage more than two Slaves in the Hundred, he is to give Certificates to the Master and Surgeon, and on Production thereof to the Commissioners of the Customs, they are to order the Master 100*l.* and the Surgeon 50*l.* Like Certificates to be given where the Mortality has not been more than three in the Hundred, which is to entitle the Master to 50*l.* and the Surgeon to 25*l.* Before any Vessel is cleared Outwards, the Master, Officers, and Mariners, to execute Articles of Agreement in the Forms hereunto annexed; and no other Form to be used on Penalty of 50*l.* Muster Roll to be regularly kept, &c. on Penalty of 100*l.* and six Months Imprisonment. No Officer, &c. to be turned over or discharged, unless into his Majesty's Ships of War, or to assist a Ship in actual Distress, or upon Preferment, or under ill State of Health. No Slops, &c. to be supplied beyond one Fourth of the Monthly Wages. Regulations with regard to Officers, &c. behaving in a riotous, seditious, or mutinous Manner. Master to cause a printed Abstract of this Act, &c. to be hung up in the most publick Place in his Vessel, on Penalty of 20*l.* If mutinous Officers, &c. be taken into Custody in *Africa*, or the *West Indies*, a Statement, upon Oath, to be lodged with the Governor, &c.; and if the Witnesses do not appear at the Trial, they shall incur a Penalty, at the Discretion of the Court. Officers, &c. to continue in Pay till the Vessel is cleared Inwards. Wages of Run Men to go to *Greenwich Hospital*, &c. Where Offences may be tried, and Penalties sued for. Limitation of Actions. Perjors taking false Oaths, to incur the Pains of Perjury, &c. This Act to continue to *August 1, 1793.*”

C A P. LIII.

An Act for the more effectual Administration of the Office of a Justice of the Peace in such Parts of the Counties of *Middlesex* and *Surrey* as lie in and near the Metropolis, and for the more effectual Prevention of Felonies.

Preamble.

“ WHEREAS a due and regular Attendance of fit and able Magistrates at certain known Places, and at stated Times, in such Parts of the Counties of *Middlesex* and *Surrey* as lie in and near the Metropolis, and a vigilant and steady Administration of the Laws by them, is requisite to the Maintenance of Peace and good Order throughout the Parts aforesaid: May it please your Majesty that it may be it 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 it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty to cause seven several Publick Offices to be established in or near the following Places; namely, the Parishes of *Saint Margaret, Westminster; Saint James, Westminster; Saint James, Clerkenwell; Saint Leonard, Shoreditch; Saint Mary, Whitechapel; and Saint Paul, Shadwell*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and at or near *Saint Margaret's Hill*, in the Borough of *Southwark*, in the County of *Surrey*, and at each of the said Publick Offices to appoint three fit and able Persons, being Justices of the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex*, and County of *Surrey* respectively, to execute the Office of a Justice of the Peace, together with such other Justices of the Peace for the said Counties respectively, as may think proper to attend.

His Majesty may cause seven Publick Offices to be established, and appoint three Justices at each.

Justices to attend at certain Hours.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That one or more of the said Justices so to be appointed as aforesaid shall diligently attend at each of the said Publick Offices every Day, from ten of the Clock in the Morning until eight of the Clock in the Evening, and at such other Times and Places as shall be found necessary; and that two of the said Justices, so to be appointed as aforesaid, shall in like Manner attend together at each of the said Offices, from eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon until one in the Afternoon, and from six of the Clock in the Evening until eight of the Clock in the Evening of every Day: Provided always, That the Attendance of one of the said Justices may be supplied, during the Hours at which the Attendance of two is required as aforesaid, by any other Justice of the Peace for the said Counties of *Middlesex* or *Surrey* respectively.

After Establishment of the Offices, no Fees to be taken, except at them, by any Justice for *Middlesex*, &c. on Penalty of 100*l.*

III. And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That, from and after the Establishment of the said seven several Publick Offices as aforesaid (twenty-one Days Notice thereof being given in the *London Gazette*), no Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, County of *Surrey*, City and Liberty of *Westminster*, or Liberty of the Tower of *London*, or his or their Clerk or Clerks, or any Person for them, other than at the said Publick Offices, shall, directly or indirectly, upon any Pretence, or under any Colour whatever, take or receive any Fee, Gratuity, Reward, or Recompence, for any Act by him or them done or to be done in the Execution of his or their Office or Employ as Justice or Justices of the Peace, Clerk or Clerks as aforesaid, within the Limits of the Weekly Bills of Mortality, or within the Parishes of *Saint Mary le Bone, Paddington, Saint Pancras, Kensington*, and *Saint Luke at Chelsea*, in the said County of *Middlesex*, upon Pain of forfeiting the Sum of one hundred Pounds for every such Offence, to be recovered, one Moiety thereof to the Receiver to be appointed in the Manner herein-after mentioned, to be applied to the Purposes of this Act, and the other Moiety thereof, with full Costs of Suits, to the Person or Persons who shall sue for the same in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Privilege, Wager of Law, or more than one Imparance, shall be allowed: Provided always, nevertheless, That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to any Fees taken at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at any Meeting of Justices for the Purpose of licensing Alehouses, pursuant to an Act passed in the twenty-sixth Year of his late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled, *An Act for regulating the Manner of licensing Alehouses in that Part of Great Britain called England, and for the more easy convicting Persons selling Ale and other Liquors without Licence*, or to any Fees taken at a certain Publick Office within the Liberty of *Westminster*, known

but not to extend to Fees for licensing Alehouses under 26 Geo. 2. c. 31, or taken at the Publick Office in Bow Street, &c.