

CAP. I.

An act for granting an aid to her Majesty, to be raised by a land tax in Great Britain, for the service of the year one thousand seven hundred and twelve. EXP. 4s. in the pound.

CAP. II.

An act for preserving the protestant religion, by better securing the church of England, as by law established; and for confirming the toleration granted to protestant dissenters by an act, intituled, An act for exempting their Majesties protestant subjects, dissenting from the church of England, from the penalties of certain laws, and for supplying the defects thereof; and for the further securing the protestant succession, by requiring the practicers of the law in North Britain to take the oaths, and subscribe the declaration therein mentioned.

WHEREAS an act was made, in the thirteenth year of the reign of the late King Charles the Second, intituled, An act for the well governing and regulating of corporations; and another act was made in the five and twentieth year of the said late King Charles the Second, intituled, An act for the preventing dangers which may happen from popish recusants; both which acts were made for the security of the church of England, as by law established: now for the better securing the said church, and quieting the minds of her Majesty's protestant subjects dissenting from the church of England, and rendering them secure in the exercise of their religious worship, as also for the further strengthening the provision already made for the security of the succession to the crown in the house of Hannover; be it enacted, &c.

After 25 March, 1712. If any officer, civil or military, &c. who receives any salary, &c. or if any magistrate of a corporation, &c. who by the acts of 13 & 25 Car. 2. are obliged to receive the sacrament, shall after their admission into their office, and during their office, and during their continuance in it, be present at any conventicle, &c. such person shall forfeit 40 l. to be recovered by the prosecutor. Every person so convicted, shall be disabled to hold his office, &c. and incapable of any employment in England, &c. Person, after conviction, conforming to the church of England, for one year, &c. shall be capable of the grant of any office. Every such person to make oath the next term after admission into any office, or at the quarter session, &c. that he hath conformed, &c. Oath to be made of the offence within 10 days, and prosecution within 3 months, &c. This act shall not vacate any office of inheritance, so as a sufficient deputy be appointed to execute it.

VII. And it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the toleration granted to the protestant dissenters, by the act made in the first year of the reign of King William and Queen Mary, intituled, *An act for exempting their Majesties protestant subjects, dissenting from the church of England, from the penalties of certain laws*, shall be, and is hereby ratified and confirmed, and that the same act shall at all times be inviolably observed, for the exempting of such protestant

The toleration granted to protestant dissenters by 1 W. & M. II. c. 18. confirmed.

stant dissenters as are thereby intended, from the pains and penalties therein mentioned.

If any dissenter, (not in holy orders, &c.) who would have been entitled to the benefit of that act, if he had taken the oaths, &c. shall be prosecuted upon any penal statute, &c. shall during such prosecution take the oaths, &c. or being a Quaker shall make the declaration, &c. he shall be entitled to the benefit of the said act.

VIII. *And for the rendering the said last-mentioned act more effectual, according to the true intent and meaning thereof; be it further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That if any person dissenting from the church of England, (not in holy orders, or pretended holy orders, or pretending to holy orders, nor any preacher or teacher of any congregation) who should have been entitled to the benefit of the said last-mentioned act, if such person had duly taken, made, and subscribed the oaths and declaration, or otherwise qualified him or herself, as required by the said act, and now is or shall be prosecuted upon or by virtue of any of the penal statutes, from which protestant dissenters are exempted by the said act, shall at any time during such prosecution, take, make, and subscribe the said oaths and declaration, or being of the people called Quakers, shall make and subscribe the aforesaid declaration, and also the declaration of fidelity, and subscribe the profession of their christian belief, according to the said act, or before any two of her Majesty's justices of the peace (who are hereby required to take and return the same to the next quarter sessions of the peace, to be there recorded) such person shall be, and is hereby entitled to the benefit of the said act, as fully and effectually as if such person had duly qualified himself within the time prescribed by the said act, and shall be thenceforth exempted and discharged from all the penalties and forfeitures incurred by force of any the aforesaid penal statutes.*

A dissenting teacher, qualified according to the said act, may officiate in any other county than where he was qualified. Such teacher to produce a certificate, &c. of his having qualified himself, &c. and shall if required make the declaration, &c.

IX. *And whereas it is or may be doubted whether a preacher or teacher of any congregation of dissenting protestants, duly in all respects qualified according to the said act, be allowed, by virtue of the said act, to officiate in any congregation in any county, other than that in which he so qualified himself, although in a congregation or place of meeting duly certified and registred as is required by the said act; be it declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any such preacher or teacher, so duly qualified according to the said act shall be and is hereby allowed to officiate in any congregation, although the same be not in the county wherein he was so qualified; provided that the said congregation, or place of meeting hath been before such officiating, duly certified and registred or recorded according to the said act: and such preacher or teacher, shall, if required, produce a certificate of his having so qualified himself, under the hand of the clerk of the peace for the county or place where he so qualified himself, which certificate such clerk of the peace is hereby required to make; and shall also before any justice of the peace of such county or place where he shall so officiate, make, and subscribe such declaration, and take such oaths as are mentioned in the said act, if thereunto required.*

All advocates, &c. in Scotland, shall take the oath appointed by

X. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on or before the fifteenth day of June next, all advocates, writers to the signet, notaries publick, and other members of the college of justice, within that part of her Majesty's kingdom of*

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Great Britain called Scotland, shall be and are hereby obliged to take and subscribe the oath appointed by the act of the sixth year of her Majesty's reign, intituled, *An act for the better security of her Majesty's person and government*, before the lords of session of the aforesaid part of her Majesty's kingdom; except such of the said persons who have already taken the same: and if any of the persons aforesaid do or shall neglect or refuse to take and subscribe the said oath, as aforesaid, such person shall be *ipso facto* adjudged incapable, and disabled in law to have, enjoy, or exercise in any manner his said employment or practice.

6 Annæ, c. 14.
Further provisions relating hereto,
10 Annæ, c. 32
s. 2.

Refusing, &c. shall be judged incapable to exercise his employment.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all time coming, no person or persons shall be admitted to the employment of advocate, writer to the signet, notary publick, or any office belonging to the said college of justice, until he or they have taken and subscribed the aforesaid oath, in manner as is above directed.

None shall be admitted to the employment of advocate, &c. till he hath taken the said oath.

C A P. III.

An act for charging and continuing the duties upon malt, mum, cyder, and perry, for the service of the year one thousand seven hundred and twelve: and for applying part of the coinage duties to pay the deficiency of the value of plate coined; and to pay for the recoinage the old money in Scotland. E X P.

C A P. IV.

An act for settling the precedence of the most excellent princess Sophia, electress and dutchess dowager of Hanover, of the elector her son, and of the electoral prince the duke of Cambridge.

WHEREAS by the laws and statutes of this realm, the imperial crown and dignity of the kingdoms of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, and the dominions thereunto belonging, after the demise and death of your Majesty, our most gracious Sovereign, whom God long preserve in health and prosperity, for the happiness and good of your subjects, and in default of issue of your Majesty's body, is limited to the most excellent princess Sophia, electress and dutchess dowager of Hanover, grand-daughter of the late King James the First, and the heirs of her body, being protestants; and your Majesty having, out of your great affection and regard to the said most excellent princess Sophia, electress and dutchess dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being protestants, signified your royal pleasure to the lords spiritual and temporal in parliament assembled, to have their precedence settled by act of parliament, in manner as herein after is mentioned: we 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 therefore be it 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 after the royal issue of your Majesty's body, the said most excellent princess Sophia, electress and dutchess dowager of Hanover, the

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