



39-40 VICTORIA.

CHAP. 80.

An Act to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts.

[15th August, 1876.]

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 the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Preliminary.

1. This Act may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Act, Short title. 1876.

2. This Act shall be construed as one with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and the Acts amending the same; and the said Acts and this Act may be cited collectively as the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1876. Construction of Act.

3. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of October, 1876 (which day is in this Act referred to as the commencement of this Act); nevertheless any Orders in Council and general rules under this Act may be made at any time after the passing of this Act, but shall not come into operation before the commencement of this Act. Commencement of Act.

Unseaworthy Ships.

4. Every person who sends or attempts to send, or is party to sending or attempting to send a British ship to sea in such unseaworthy state that the life of any person is likely to be thereby endangered, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, unless he proves that he used all reasonable means to insure her being sent to sea in a seaworthy state, or that her going to sea in such unseaworthy state was, under the circumstances, reasonable and justifiable,—and for the purpose of giving such proof he may give evidence in the same manner as any other witness. Sending unseaworthy ship to sea, a misdemeanour