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ANNO REGNI

GEORGGII III.

REGIS

Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

VICESIMO TERTIO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster*, the Thirty-first Day of *October*, *Anno Domini* 1780, in the Twenty-first Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued, by several Prorogations, to the Fifth Day of *December*, 1782; being the Third Session of the Fifteenth Parliament of *Great Britain*.



L O N D O N :

Printed by CHARLES EYRE and WILLIAM STRAHAN,
Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1783.





ANNO VICESIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.



C A P. LXXX.

An Act for appointing Commissioners to enquire into the Losses and Services of all such Persons who have suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions, during the late unhappy Dissentions in *America*, in Consequence of their Loyalty to His Majesty, and Attachment to the *British* Government.



WHEREAS, during the late unhappy Preamble. Dissentions in *America*, many of Your Majesty's faithful Subjects have, in consequence of their Loyalty to Your Majesty, and Attachment to the *British* Government, and their Obedience to Your Majesty's Proclamation, and various other Proclamations and Manifestoes, issued by Your Majesty's Commissioners, Generals, and Governors, suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions, insomuch that several well-deserving Persons are reduced from Affluence to Circumstances

cumstances so far as to require the Aid of a temporary Support, which has been allotted to them by the Commissioners of the Treasury, by annual Allowances made, and occasional Assistance by Sums of Money given to them from the Revenues of Your Majesty's Civil List, the Amount of which has hitherto been made good by Parliament; and Your faithful Commons, not doubting but that Your Majesty's most earnest Endeavours will be employed for procuring from the United States of America Restitution of or Recompence for the Estates and Effects of those who have thus unhappily suffered, and intending to give all due Aid and Assistance to those who may return to America for the Recovery of their former Possessions under the Provisional Articles, and to extend such Relief to others who may, by particular Circumstances, be deprived of that Advantage, as their respective Cases may require, and the Publick afford; to which End, it is necessary that a diligent and impartial Enquiry should be made into the Losses and Services of all such Persons as may, within the Time herein after limited for that Purpose, claim or request such Aid or Relief as is hereby intended to be given: We pray 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 John Wilmot Esquire, Daniel Parker Coke Esquire, Colonel Robert Kingston, Colonel Thomas Dundas, and John Marsh Esquire, shall be, and they are hereby constituted Commissioners for enquiring into the respective Losses and Services of all such Person and Persons who have suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions, during the late unhappy Dissentions in America, in consequence of their Loyalty to His Majesty, and Attachment to the British Government.

Commissioners appointed for enquiring into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists.

Commissioners to be sworn.

II. And be it further enacted, That any Three Commissioners in this Act named, before they enter upon the Execution of the same, shall take an Oath before the Speaker of the House for the Time being, or One of His Majesty's

Majesty's Justices of the Court of Bench, Common Pleas, or Barons of the Exchequer, (which they, or either of them, are hereby authorized and required to administer), in the Form following; that is to say,

I *A. B.* do swear, That, according to the best of my Skill The Oath. and Knowledge, I will faithfully, impartially, and truly execute the several Powers and Trusts vested in me by an Act, (intituled, *An Act for appointing Commissioners to enquire into the Losses and Services of all such Persons who have suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions, during the late unhappy Dissentions in America, in consequence of their Loyalty to His Majesty, and Attachment to the British Government*), according to the Tenor and Purport of the said Act.

And every other of the said Commissioners in this Act named, shall likewise take the same Oath, before the said Three Commissioners, who are hereby authorized and required to administer the same, after they shall themselves have taken the said Oath as aforesaid.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, and they are hereby authorized, impowered, and required, to examine upon Oath, (which Oath they, or any Three or more of them, are hereby authorized to administer), all Persons whom the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall think fit to examine touching all such Matters and Things as shall be necessary for the Execution of the Powers vested in the said Commissioners by this Act; and all such Persons are hereby directed and required punctually to attend the said Commissioners at such Time or Place as they, or any Three or more of them, shall appoint.

Commissioners may examine Parties on Oath.

IV. And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, are hereby authorized to meet and sit, from Time to Time, at the Office of the late Secretary of State for the American Department, with or without Adjournment,

Commissioners to meet at the Office of the late Secretary for America.

Their Powers. and to send ~~any~~ or Precepts, under their Hands and Seals, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, and for such Books, Papers, Writings, or Records, as they shall judge necessary for their Information in the Execution of the Powers vested in the said Commissioners by this Act; and the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, are hereby authorized to appoint and employ such Clerks, Messengers, and Officers, as they shall think meet; which Clerks and Officers are hereby required faithfully to execute and perform the Trust in them severally and respectively reposed, without taking any Thing for such their Service, other than such Salary or Rewards as the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, shall think fit to direct and appoint in that Behalf.

Persons who deliver in fraudulent Claims, to be excluded from any Compensation.

V. And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if it shall appear to the said Commissioners that any Person shall have delivered to them an Account or Claim beyond the real Loss, with an Intent to obtain more than a just Compensation, the said Commissioners shall, with all convenient Dispatch, report such Account or Claim, with the Evidence taken thereupon, to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, who are hereby authorized to make such further Enquiry upon the Case as they shall think proper; and if they, or any Three of them, shall be of Opinion that such Account or Claim is fraudulent, then such Person shall be absolutely excluded from any Compensation or Provision whatsoever.

Persons willfully giving false Evidence, to be liable to the Penalties of corrupt Perjury.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person or Persons, upon Examination upon Oath before the said Commissioners respectively, as before mentioned, shall wilfully and corruptly give false Evidence, every such Person so offending, and being thereof duly convicted, shall be, and is and are hereby declared to be subject and liable to such Pains and Penalties as, by any Law now in being, Persons convicted of wilful and corrupt Perjury are subject and liable to.

Limitation of the Time for receiving Claims.

VII. And be it further enacted, That no Claim or Request of any Person or Persons for Aid or Relief on Account

Account of the Loss of any ... the late
Dissentions in America, shall be ... the Twen-
ty-fifth Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and
eighty-four.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Com-
missioners shall, from Time to Time, at their Discre-
tion, or as often as they shall be thereunto required, and
as soon as possible after the Determination of their Exa-
minations and Proceedings by virtue of this Act, with-
out any further Requisition, give an Account of their
Proceedings in Writing, to the Lords Commissioners
of His Majesty's Treasury, and to His Majesty's Prin-
cipal Secretaries of State for the Time being.

Commission-
ers to give an
Account of
their Proceed-
ings to the
Treasury, and
to the Secre-
taries of State.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the Lords Com-
missioners of the Treasury, or Lord High Treasurer for
the Time being, are hereby authorised and required to
issue and cause to be paid all such Sums of Money, not
exceeding Two thousand Pounds, to such Person or
Persons as the said Commissioners, or any Three or
more of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands,
desire or direct, out of any Part of the Publick Monies
remaining in His Majesty's Exchequer; which Sum so
issued and paid, shall be employed for the Payment of
Clerks, Messengers, and other Officers, and in defray-
ing all other necessary Charges in or about the Execution
of the Powers of this Act, and in such Manner and in
such Proportions, as shall be appointed by the said Com-
missioners, or any Three or more of them, by Writing
under their Hands and Seals in that Behalf; the same
to be accounted for, by the Person or Persons to whom
the same shall be issued and paid, according to the Course
of His Majesty's Exchequer, without any Fee or other
Charges to be taken on the passing of the said Accounts,
other than such Sum as the said Commissioners, or any
Three or more of them, shall appoint.

Treasury to
pay 2,000*l.*
to the Order
of the Com-
missioners;

to be employ-
ed in paying
Clerks, Mes-
sengers, &c.

X. And be it further enacted by the Authority afore-
said, That in case of a Vacancy or Vacancies, by Death
or Resignation of any One or more of the said Commis-
sioners, during the Recess of Parliament, it shall and
may be lawful for His Majesty to nominate and appoint

In case of Va-
cancy, by
Death, &c. of
a Commission-
er, during the
Recess of Par-
liament, His
Majesty may
appoint
another.

such

such Period as he may think proper to supply such Vacancies; and that every Person so nominated and appointed shall be held and considered to be invested with all the same Powers as are delegated to the Commissioners appointed by this Act.

Continuance
of this Act.

XI And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue in Force for Two Years from the passing of this Act, and no longer.

F I N I S.