



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGI II. REGIS.

C A P. XX.

An Act for more effectually discovering the Longitude at Sea, and encouraging Attempts to find a *Northern* Passage between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, and to approach the *Northern* Pole.

[8th May 1818.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of Her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, intituled *An Act for providing a Public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea*, it was enacted, that Persons holding certain Public Offices therein stated, for the time being, and certain other Persons therein mentioned by Name, should be Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, and for examining, trying, and judging of all Proposals, Experiments, and Improvements relating to the same: And whereas another Act was passed in the Twenty-sixth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, for rendering more effectual the last-recited Act: And whereas by another Act passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for continuing the Encouragement and Reward of Persons making certain Discoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, or making other useful Discoveries and Improvements in Navigation, and for making Experiments relating thereto, and for adding a Commissioner to execute the several Acts for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea*, Persons holding certain other Offices, therein enumerated, for the time being, were added to and joined with the Commissioners appointed by the said first-mentioned Act: And whereas all the Persons mentioned by Name in the said first-recited Act are long since deceased: And whereas by reason of the Residence at the Universities of certain Professors who are constituted Members of the Board of Commissioners aforesaid, and by there not being a Power of electing into the said Board any Persons but the said Official Commissioners and the said Professors, it often happens that there are no Persons, particularly versed in the Sciences of the Mathematics and Astronomy, resident in *London*, and belonging to the said Board; and that divers Persons of great Skill and Ability, whose Services would be most

12 Anne. c. 15.

26 G. 2. c. 25.

30 G. 3. c. 14.

Recited Acts repealed.

beneficial to the Objects of the said Board, are by the said Constitution of the Board excluded therefrom: 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 the said recited Acts shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

Commissioners for discovering the Longitude appointed.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, the Lord High Treasurer of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, or the First Commissioner for executing the said Office, the Lord High Admiral or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland*, and such other Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* as may be Flag Officers in His Majesty's Fleet, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the President of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations, the Governor of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at *Greenwich*, the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, the Secretaries of the Treasury, the Secretaries of the Admiralty, the Comptroller of the Navy, the President and Three Fellows of the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomer at *Greenwich*, the *Savilian, Lucasian, Plumian, and Lowndian* Professors of the Mathematics and Astronomy at the Universities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, the Observer at the *Radcliffe* Observatory at *Oxford*, all now and for the time being, and Three other Persons well versed in the Sciences of Mathematics, Astronomy, or Navigation, to be annually selected, chosen, and named, as herein-after provided, shall be Commissioners for discovering the Longitude at Sea, and for examining, trying, and judging all Proposals, Experiments, and Improvements relating to the same, and for rewarding Persons making useful Discoveries and Improvements in or connected with Navigation.

Further Appointment of Commissioners.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Three Members of the Royal Society, so to be Commissioners, shall be the Right Honourable *Charles Lord Colchester, Davies Gilbert* Esquire, and Colonel *William Mudge*; and that in the Event of any Vacancy by Death, Resignation, or Refusal to act, of any of the said Three Persons, or of any Person hereafter chosen to succeed them, such Vacancy shall be filled up by the Choice and Election of the President and Council of the Royal Society; and that the said Three other Commissioners shall be Doctor *William Hyde Wollaston*, and Doctor *Thomas Young*, and Captain *Henry Kater*, who shall continue Commissioners until the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and twenty, after which Time the Three Persons to be the said last-mentioned Commissioners shall be annually, or as often as a Vacancy by Death, Resignation, or Refusal to act, may occur, selected, chosen, and named by the Lord High Admiral, or Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, and shall be Persons well versed in the Sciences of the Mathematics, Astronomy, or Navigation, and shall be generally resident in or near the City of *London*, and capable of attending at the Board of Commissioners, and of assisting in the Objects herein intrusted to the said Board.

All Acts conferring any Duty or Power on the Commissioners, repealed.

IV. And whereas by the said recited Acts, and by divers other Acts passed from Time to Time, and all founded upon and referring to the said first-recited Act, divers Duties and Authorities were imposed and conferred upon the Commissioners constituted by the said recited Acts, and divers

Sums of Money for various Purposes, and under different Conditions, were from Time to Time granted and provided to be employed and expended towards the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, and for divers Purposes in such Acts mentioned, and for Rewards to such Persons as should ascertain the Longitude within certain Limits and Conditions therein specified; and for enabling the said Commissioners to cause a Survey to be made of the Shores of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and ascertaining the Latitude and Longitude of the Capes, Promontories, and Headlands thereof: And whereas some of the Provisions of the said Acts have been repealed, and others thereof have expired; and it is expedient wholly to repeal the same, for the Purpose of re-enacting and conferring upon the new Commissioners such of the Powers, Authorities, and Duties at present vested in the old Commissioners, as are fit to be continued in force: Be it therefore enacted, That all and every Act, conferring any Duty, Authority, or Power on the Commissioners constituted by the said first-recited Acts, shall be and are hereby repealed.

V. And whereas the Longitude hath been ascertained within certain of the Limits and Conditions specified in the said Acts: And whereas certain other of the Limits and Conditions still subsisting are considered as impracticable, and have never been tried: And whereas it may conduce to the Advancement of Science, and to the Honour and Interests of this Country, that fit and proportionate Rewards should be provided for Persons who shall ascertain the Longitude within certain new Limits and Conditions: And whereas it is expedient that such Limits and Conditions should not be immutably fixed by Act of Parliament, but should be regulated on scientific Principles by the said Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude, and should be varied from Time to Time according to the Progress of Discoveries and the Advancement of Science: Be it enacted, That the said last-mentioned Commissioners shall from Time to Time, as they may see proper, propose, by their Memorial to His Majesty in Council, to direct and establish Three Scales of proportionate Rewards to be paid to any Person or Persons who shall, by any Principle not already made public, ascertain the Longitude within Three corresponding Scales of Limit and Condition, such Rewards not exceeding the respective Sums of Five thousand Pounds, Seven thousand five hundred Pounds, and Ten thousand Pounds; and if His Majesty in Council shall be pleased to sanction and approve such Proposal, then that the same shall be published in the *London Gazette*, and that the said Commissioners shall have full Power and Authority to inquire into and examine all Proposals which may be made for finding the Longitude; and if on reasonable Experiment, to be judged of and certified by the said Commissioners, it shall be found that the Longitude hath been ascertained within any of the said Three Scales of Limit and Condition, agreeably to the said Order in Council, it shall be lawful to them to pay or cause to be paid the proportionate Reward assigned to the Scale within which such Discovery or Experiment shall have ascertained the Longitude.

Commissioners may propose Three Scales of Reward to Persons making Discoveries regarding the Longitude.

If Proposal be approved by His Majesty in Council, Commissioners may pay the proportionate Reward.

VI. And whereas it is expedient that the said Commissioners should be enabled to expend certain Sums towards making Experiments of Instruments, Modes, or Proposals, and for making and publishing Observations, Calculations, and Tables for ascertaining the Longitude, or towards improving or correcting such as may have been already made, or for other Purposes useful to Navigation; be it enacted, That they may pay or expend any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding One thousand Pounds in any one Year, towards the making, correcting, or publishing any such Experiments, Modes, Observations, Calculations, or Tables.

Commissioners may expend 1000l. a year in making Experiments, &c.

VII. And

And a like Sum in ascertaining the Latitude and Longitude of Places.

VII. And whereas it is expedient that the said Commissioners should be enabled to cause to be ascertained, as accurately as may be, the Latitude and Longitude of Places whereof the exact Situation hath not been already sufficiently ascertained; be it enacted; That they may expend or cause to be expended any Sum not exceeding in the whole One thousand Pounds in any one Year for such Purpose.

Rewards may be allowed to Persons making Improvements in former Inventions.

VIII. And whereas it may happen that Proposals, Inventions, and Tables, or Corrections and Amendments of former Proposals, Inventions, or Tables, ingenious in themselves and useful to Science, and which may deserve Encouragement, though they do not come within the Limits and Conditions specified for the before-mentioned Rewards, may be made to the said Commissioners; and it is expedient that they should be enabled to bestow such moderate Rewards upon the Person or Persons who may have made such Proposal, Invention, or Correction; be it therefore enacted, That the said Commissioners may pay or cause to be paid such Sum not exceeding Five hundred Pounds to any one Person for any one Proposal or Invention, or Two thousand Pounds in one Year, as they may consider the said Proposals, Inventions, Tables, or Corrections to deserve.

18 G. 2. c. 17.

IX. And whereas by an Act passed in the Eighteenth Year of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled *An Act for giving a public Reward to such Person or Persons, being His Majesty's Subject or Subjects, as shall discover a North-west Passage through Hudson's Streights to the Western and Southern Oceans of America*, a Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds was provided for the Owner or Owners of any Ship or Vessel which should first find out and sail through such Passage; and the Persons holding certain Offices therein named, for the Time being, were appointed Commissioners for the said Discovery: And whereas by an Act passed in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for giving a public Reward to such Person or Persons, being His Majesty's Subject or Subjects, as shall discover a Northern Passage for Vessels by Sea between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and also unto such as shall first approach by Sea within One Degree of the Northern Pole*; the Reward in the last-recited Act was extended to the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, of any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels, and to the Owner or Owners of any private Ship or Vessel which should find out and sail through any Passage by Sea between the *Atlantic and Pacific Oceans*, in any Direction or Parallel of the *Northern Hemisphere* to the North of the Fifty-second Degree of North Latitude; and further assigning a Reward of Five thousand Pounds to the Commander or Commanders, Officers and Seamen, of any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels, or the Owner or Owners of any private Ship or Vessel which should first approach within One Degree of the *Northern Pole*; and appointing the Commissioners of the Longitude to be Commissioners for executing this last-recited Act: And whereas many Advantages, both to Commerce and Science, may be expected from granting such proportionate Rewards as well to such Person or Persons as may accomplish the Objects of the said Two last-mentioned Acts, as to such other Person or Persons as may approach thereto within certain Limits or Conditions: And whereas it is expedient that the Regulation of such Limits and Conditions, and the Decision, whether and how far such Object may have been accomplished, should be confided to the Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea appointed by this Act; be it therefore enacted, That the said Two last-recited Acts shall be and they are hereby repealed.

Recited Acts repealed.

X. And

X. And be it further enacted, That if any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or to His Majesty, shall first find out and sail through any Passage by Sea, between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, in any Direction or Parallel of the Northern Hemisphere, the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, if belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen, and Marines of such Ships or Vessels, if belonging to His Majesty, so first finding out and sailing through such Passage shall receive a Reward for such Discovery, of the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds.

Persons first finding and sailing through any Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, shall receive a Reward of 20,000 l.

XI. And whereas Ships employed both in the *Spitzbergen* Seas and in *Davis's* Straights may have Opportunities of approaching the *North Pole*: And whereas Approaches towards the *Northern Pole* may tend greatly to the Discovery of a Communication between the *Atlantic* and *Pacific* Oceans, as well as may be attended with many Advantages to Commerce and Science; be it therefore enacted, That if any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, shall approach within One Degree of the *Northern Pole*, the Owner of such Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, if belonging to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen, and Marines of any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, if belonging to His Majesty, so first approaching within One Degree of the *Northern Pole*, shall be entitled to receive a Reward of Five thousand Pounds.

Persons first approaching within One Degree of the Northern Pole entitled to a Reward of 5,000 l.

XII. And for the Encouragement of Persons who may attempt the said Passage, or approach to the *Northern Pole*, but not wholly accomplish the same; be it enacted, That the said Commissioners for discovering the Longitude at Sea may, by their Memorial, propose to His Majesty in Council to direct and establish proportionate Rewards to be paid to such Person as aforesaid who shall first have accomplished certain Proportions of the said Passage or Approach; and if His Majesty in Council shall be pleased to sanction and approve the said Proposal, then that the same shall be published in the *London Gazette*; and any Person or Persons accomplishing such Passages, or the specified Proportions of them, shall be entitled, on the Award of the said Commissioners, to receive such total or proportionate Sums as may have been offered for the Object which he or they may have then accomplished.

Commissioners may reward Attempts to approach the same.

XIII. And in order to ascertain who are the first Discoverers of the said *Northern Passage* into the *Pacific Ocean*, and who are the first Approachers to within One Degree of the *Northern Pole*; and to whom either the whole Rewards or the proportionate Rewards by this Act respectively given do belong; be it further enacted, That the Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude by Sea be authorized and empowered to call for the respective Journal or Journals, Book or Books, and Papers, kept on board the respective Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, of the Claimant or Claimants respectively; and also to examine upon Oath all such Persons as they the said Commissioners shall think proper, with regard to any Claim or Claims, as well any Person or Persons produced by the respective Claimant or Claimants, or any other Person or Persons who may seem capable of giving any Information; which Oath the said Commissioners are hereby empowered and required to administer; and the said Commissioners being fully satisfied, upon such Examination and Proof, that such *Northern Passage* is effectually discovered and sailed through, or that such Approach within One Degree of the *Northern Pole*, or any specified Proportion

Proceedings in ascertaining the Discoverers of such Northern Passage, &c.

Proportion of the said Passage or Approach, shall have been made and accomplished, they are hereby authorized to pay or cause to be paid the said Rewards, or such Proportion of them as the Claimant or Claimants may under this Act, or under such Order in Council, be entitled to receive.

Rewards claimed by Officers and Men of His Majesty's Ships how to be distributed.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if the said Rewards, or either of them, shall be claimed by and adjudged to the Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen and Marines of any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, belonging to His Majesty, the same shall be disposed in favour of and distributed among such Commander or Commanders, Officers, Seamen and Marines, in such Proportions as shall be directed by His Majesty in Council, and in no other Manner.

Executors may receive the Reward.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the Executors, Administrators, and Assigns of any Person or Persons to whom any Sum whatsoever shall be awarded by the Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude, shall be entitled to receive the same in the Event of the Death of such Person or Persons.

Commissioners may cause Nautical Almanacks, &c. to be made and published.

XVI. And whereas the Publication of the Nautical Almanack, constructed by proper Persons, under the Directions of the said Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, is of great Importance to the Safety of Ships and Persons, and highly conducive to the general Interests of Commerce and Navigation; be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners to cause such Nautical Almanacks, or other useful Tables, to be constructed, and to print, publish, and vend, or cause to be printed, published, and vended, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other useful Table or Tables, which they shall from Time to Time judge necessary and useful, in order to facilitate the Method of discovering the Longitude at Sea; any Law, Statute, exclusive Privilege, private Charter, or other Custom, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

No unauthorized Persons to publish the Nautical Almanack,

XVII. And be it enacted, That no Person or Persons shall print, publish, or vend, or cause to be printed, published or vended, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other Table or Tables, constructed under the Direction of the said Commissioners, without being first licensed by the said Commissioners; and if any Person or Persons not so licensed, or not being authorized by the Person or Persons so licensed by the said Commissioners, shall print, publish, or vend, or cause to be printed, published, or vended, any such Almanack or Almanacks, or other Table or Tables, every such Person or Persons shall, for every Copy of such Nautical Almanack or Table so printed, published, or vended, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds, to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*; and that one Moiety of such Penalty and Forfeiture shall be to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety to him or them that shall prosecute, inform, and sue for the same.

on Penalty of 20 l.

Penalties to be sued for by the Secretary of Commissioners of Longitude.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Penalty or Forfeiture shall be sued, informed, and prosecuted for by the Secretary of the said Commissioners of the Longitude for the Time being, or by some other Person or Persons authorized by the said Commissioners, and shall not be sued, informed, or prosecuted for by any other Person or Persons whomsoever; and that such Suits, Prosecutions, and Informations shall not abate by

reason of the Death of such Prosecutors or any of them, but shall be continued in the case of a sole Plaintiff or Informer dying before Judgment obtained, in the Name of the Secretary of the said Commissioners for the Time being.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That no such Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, so published under the Directions of the said Commissioners, shall be subject or liable to any Stamp Duty whatsoever.

Nautical Almanack not to be liable to Stamp Duties.

XX. And be it further enacted, That there shall be annually paid to each of the Three last-named Commissioners and their Successors, to be annually named according to the Provisions of this Act, such annual Sum as His Majesty, by any Order in Council, shall be pleased to direct.

Salary to Three of the Commissioners.

XXI. And whereas it is necessary to continue the Appointment of a Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for discovering the Longitude: And whereas it is highly expedient to the Interest of Navigation, and the Honour of this Country, that the said Nautical Almanack should be accurately computed, compared, and published, and that the Method of finding the Longitude by Timekeepers should also be encouraged, and that the Timekeepers belonging to His Majesty for the Use of His Ships of War should be carefully examined and regulated; be it further enacted, That some Person of competent Skill and Ability shall be nominated and appointed by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners of the Admiralty to be Secretary to the said Board of Commissioners, and for superintending, under the Directions of the Board in general, and the Astronomer Royal in particular, the due and correct Publication of the Nautical Almanack, and for taking care of and regulating such Timekeepers as may be intrusted to his Care by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Secretary to be appointed.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That the said Secretary shall hold his said Office during the Pleasure of the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners of the Admiralty; and for his Trouble and Pains therein he shall receive such annual Salary as His Majesty, by any Order in Council, may please to direct; but if it shall so happen that a Person shall not be found competent to execute the Three several Duties of Secretary to the said Board, and of superintending the Publication of the Nautical Almanack, and the Care and Regulation of Timekeepers, it shall be lawful to the said Commissioners to propose to His Majesty in Council to divide the said Duties, and assign them to several Persons, and to apportion to each Person such Part of the Salary established for the Performance of the united Duties as may seem to them fit and proportionate to the several Duty or Duties to be performed by such Person.

Tenure of his Office, and Salary.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Salaries to the Three annual Commissioners, and the said Secretary or Persons performing the last-mentioned Duties, shall be annually placed on the Ordinary Estimate of the Navy.

Salaries to be included in the ordinary Estimates of the Navy.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That no Receipt of any Salary or Reward under this Act shall prevent any Officer entitled to any Military or Naval Half-pay from receiving such Half-pay in addition to any such Salary or Reward.

Not to affect Half-pay.

XXV. And

Estimate of
Expence to
be prepared.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners for discovering the Longitude at Sea shall, at the Beginning of every Year, make an Estimate of the Sum or Sums which they shall deem to be necessary for executing the Purposes of this Act in such Year, which Estimate shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and, on being approved or amended by the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners of the Admiralty, shall be placed on the Ordinary Estimate of the Navy.

Mode of Pay-
ment of
Money.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That any Sum or Sums of Money to be paid under the Authority of this Act shall be paid, upon Certificates under the Hands and Seals of the Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, to the Commissioners of the Navy for the Time being; and the Commissioners of the Navy shall forthwith make out a Bill or Bills for the Sum or Sums contained in such Certificate or Certificates, payable by the Treasurer of the Navy, and such Sum or Sums of Money the said Treasurer of the Navy is hereby required to pay immediately to the Person or Persons mentioned in the said Certificate or Certificates, out of any Money which shall be in his Hands unapplied for the Use of the Navy: Provided always, that all such Sums of Money as shall exceed the Sum of Five thousand Pounds shall be certified under the Hands and Seals of Two-thirds at least of the said Commissioners, and all such Sums as shall exceed the Sum of One thousand Pounds shall be certified under the Hands and Seals of the major Part of them, and that all such Sums as shall not exceed One thousand Pounds shall be certified under the Hands and Seals of any Five or more of them; such Certificates being in every Case whatsoever signed by One at least of the following Commissioners; that is to say, the Lord High Treasurer of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or the First Commissioner of the Treasury, the Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, or First Commissioner of the Admiralty, the Secretaries of the Treasury, and the Secretaries of the Admiralty.

Quorum of
the Commis-
sioners and
Persons who
shall attend.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That in any other respects where any Power or Authority is vested in the Commissioners under this Act, the same may be exercised by any Five or more Commissioners at the Board assembled, in as full and ample a Manner as if the whole Commissioners were then and there present; provided always, that at every such Board one of the following Commissioners at the least shall be present; that is to say, the First or one other of the Commissioners, or One of the Secretaries of the Admiralty; and that also Three other of the following Commissioners at the least shall be present, that is to say, the President of the Royal Society, the Astronomer Royal, the Professors and Observer at the Two Universities, and the Three Commissioners annually elected and receiving Salaries as aforesaid.

Meetings of
Commission-
ers.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That there shall be held at least Four stated Meetings of the said Commissioners within every Year, to be held on such Days as His Majesty by any Order in Council may appoint, and such other Meetings as from Time to Time may be necessary; of all which Meetings due Notice shall be given to the said Commissioners respectively.