



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO PRIMO

# GEORGI III. REGIS.



## Cap. 125.

An Act for more equally assessing and collecting the Poor Rates, in the Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard*, in the County of *Middlesex*.

[25th May 1811.]

**W**HEREAS the Poor within the Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard*, in the County of *Middlesex*, are numerous, and maintained at a great Expence, and the Laws and Statutes now in Force within this Realm, for the assessing and collecting of Monies for the Relief of Parochial Poor, are found inconvenient and ineffectual in the said Parish, and the Payment thereof much evaded, by reason that divers Houses within the said Parish are let out in separate Apartments, and other Houses therein are let either furnished or unfurnished to Lodgers, and it is deemed that the granting further Powers in the Premises will tend to the Equalization and Reduction of the present Poor Rates within the said Parish, to the great Alleviation of many industrious Families who now pay the same, and of the Rest of the Inhabitants in general: May it therefore please 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, from and after the passing of this Act, the recovering, levying, collecting, or receiving any Rates, Assessments, or Penalties due at the Time of passing this Act, as also all such other Rates, Assessments, or Penalties as shall or may from Time to Time become due and payable, shall and may be recoverable, levied, and collected, under the Powers and Authorities of this Act, as herein-after is mentioned.

Rates to be collected under the Powers of this Act.

Minister,  
Churchwardens,  
Overseers, and  
Inhabitants in  
Vestry assembled,  
appointed Trustees.

II. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor, with Twenty-one Inhabitants, which Inhabitants shall be respectively rated on the Poor Rates in the said Parish at not less than Sixteen Pounds by the Year, to be named and appointed by the major Part of such of the Inhabitants qualified to vote as is herein-after provided, as shall assemble at a publick Vestry to be called within Thirty Days after the passing of this Act for the Purposes herein-after mentioned, and so in like Manner afterwards on *Easter Tuesday* annually, or as soon after as may be, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, to be and they are hereby appointed Trustees for the Purpose of carrying this Act into Execution, and shall have full Power and Authority to effect the same to all Intents and Purposes, until they or others in their Stead are appointed at some annual Meeting to be held as herein-after directed.

Former Trustees eligible.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That such of the said Trustees as shall be Inhabitants of the said Parish, and qualified as herein provided, at the Time when Trustees are to be annually named and appointed in Manner herein declared, shall be eligible, and shall and may again be nominated and appointed to be Trustees for the ensuing or any subsequent Year; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Meetings.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers for the Time being, and the said Trustees, shall, on the *Thursday* next after such Nomination and Appointment, meet in the Vestry Room of the said Parish, at Six of the Clock in the Afternoon, and shall then proceed in the Execution of this Act, and shall then and from Time to Time afterwards adjourn to or meet at the same or any other Place within the said Parish, as they the said Trustees, or the major Part of those assembled at any such Meeting or Meetings, shall think most convenient for putting this Act into Execution: Provided always, that no Meeting of Trustees shall be enabled to act in the Execution of this Act, unless the same consist of Five or more Trustees, and that all Orders and Directions made at any Meeting by the major Part of the said Five or more Trustees so assembled, shall have the same Force and Effect as if the same were made or done by all the Trustees for the Time being.

No Person interested shall act as a Trustee.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any Person appointed a Trustee for the Purposes of this Act shall have any Share or Interest in any Contract, or be appointed to or enjoy any beneficial Employment under or by virtue of this Act, every such Person shall, during his or their Continuance in such Appointment or the Term of such Contract, be disabled and disqualified from acting as a Trustee.

Adjourned Meetings.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or some or one of them, shall be present at all and every Meeting of Trustees holden under this Act; and if at any Meeting appointed to be holden under this Act, there shall not be a sufficient Number of Churchwardens and Overseers or Trustees to act, then and in every such Case the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Time being, or any One or more of them, shall by causing Notice to be given the next *Sunday* in the Parish Church, appoint the Trustees to meet at the Place where the last

last Meeting was appointed to be holden, upon some Day therein to be specified, which Notice shall be given Three Days at least previous to such Day of Meeting; and at every Meeting of the said Trustees, or of the Inhabitants of the said Parish for the Purpose of electing Trustees, or any Purpose for which they shall be convened under this Act; the Minister if present, or in his Absence the Senior Churchwarden, or in the Absence of the Churchwardens the Senior Overseer then present, shall be Chairman; and when and as often as it shall happen that there shall be an equal Number of Votes upon any Question, then and in every such Case the Chairman shall give the casting Vote; and the said Trustees shall at all their Meetings defray their own Expences.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, present at any Meeting of Trustees holden under this Act, to administer to any Person or Persons an Oath, or if a Quaker an Affirmation, to answer all lawful Questions on any Matter or Business then depending before them, and which shall be put to them respecting the Rent or Valuation of any House or Houses, Tenement or Tenements within the said Parish, or any other Matter or Thing whatsoever, relating to the Poor Rates, or the Management of the Poor; and if any Person or Persons shall, upon his, her, or their Examination on Oath or Affirmation as aforesaid, wilfully and corruptly give false Evidence, such Person or Persons 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.

Power to  
examine Per-  
sons on Oath.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex* to act as such in the Execution of this Act, notwithstanding his being a Trustee, unless he shall be personally interested in some other Manner than generally as a Trustee or Inhabitant of the said Parish as aforesaid.

Justice may  
act as Trustee.

IX. And be it further enacted, That fair and regular Entries shall be made in a Book or Books to be provided for that Purpose of all the Acts, Orders, Rules, Regulations, Contracts, Directions, and Proceedings of the said Trustees relative to the Execution of this Act, and of the Names of the Trustees who shall be present at the respective Meetings, and the same shall be confirmed at the next Meeting of the said Trustees, and when so approved and confirmed be signed by the Chairman; and all such Entries being so signed shall be deemed Originals, and shall be admitted as Evidence in all Courts whatsoever, in all Civil Causes, Suits, Actions, and in all Criminal Prosecutions whatsoever, touching or concerning any Thing done in pursuance of this Act.

Books to be  
kept.

X. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees at any Meeting to be holden under this Act shall and may appoint some Person to act as Treasurer, to receive the Rates and other Monies collected or paid for the Use of the said Parish, and shall take such Security from every such Treasurer to be appointed as aforesaid for the due Execution of the said Office, as the said Trustees, or the major Part of them at any Meeting holden under this Act, shall think proper; and the Churchwardens and Overseers

Treasurer.

Overseers for the Time being of the said Parish, or any Two or more of them, are hereby authorized and empowered to draw from Time to Time, out of the Hands of such Treasurer, such Sum or Sums of Money as may be wanted for the Service of the said Parish.

Collectors  
and other  
Officers.

XI. And be it further enacted, That the Inhabitants duly qualified in Manner herein mentioned for the Nomination and Appointment of Trustees, and who shall assemble at a Vestry or Parish Meeting convened for that Purpose, by Notice to be given in the said Parish Church Three Days at least previous to the said Meeting, shall or may from Time to Time, and for such Times as they shall declare, nominate and appoint a proper Person or Persons to be a Collector or Collectors of the Parochial Rates of the said Parish; as also proper Persons to be Master or Mistress of a Workhouse; as also a Beadle or Beadles for the better carrying into Execution this Act, and to make such Allowances, annual or otherwise, to such Master or Mistress, Collectors or Beadles, as they shall think reasonable; and the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Time being shall take such Security from all and every such Collector or Collectors, for the due accounting and paying into the Hands of the Treasurer as aforesaid, the full Amount of all and every Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, and all Monies whatever which shall be by them collected or in anywise received for the Relief of the Poor, or the Use of the Parish; which Security shall, as to the Amount thereof, be subject to the Approbation of the said Inhabitants assembled in Vestry as aforesaid; and the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Time being shall and may from Time to Time suspend or dismiss any of the Persons so nominated and appointed as aforesaid, for Neglect of or Misconduct in his or their Duty.

Removal of  
Paupers.

XII. And be it further enacted, That in every Case of Removal of any Poor Person or Persons, by an Order under the Hands and Seals of Two Magistrates, from the said Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard* to any Parish or Place, as that of his, her, or their Settlement, it shall be lawful for the said Churchwardens and Overseers, or any One or more of them, if they think fit, to cause such Poor Person or Persons to be removed by the Beadle, or by some other Person or Persons by them appointed for that Purpose; and every Overseer or other proper Officer of the Parish or Place to which such Poor Person or Persons shall be removed as aforesaid, is and are hereby required to receive him, her or them, in like Manner as if such Poor Person or Persons had been delivered to them by One of the Overseers of the said Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard*; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

May sue, &c.  
in the Clerk's  
Name.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the Vestry Clerk for the Time being of the said Parish shall be Clerk to the Trustees under this Act for carrying the same into Effect, and the Trustees shall and may sue and be sued in the Name of the Vestry Clerk for the Time being; and no Action or Suit that shall or may be brought by or against the said Trustees in relation to this Act, in the Name of the Vestry Clerk, shall abate or be discontinued by the Death or Removal of such Clerk, or by the Act of such Clerk, without the Consent of the Trustees, to be by them given at a Meeting or Meetings holden under this Act, but the said Clerk for the Time being shall be deemed Plaintiff or Defendant in such Action or Suit,

Suit, and shall be reimbursed and paid, out of the Monies to arise by and out of the Rates and Assessments raised or to be raised for the Relief of the Poor, all such Costs, Damages, and Expences as he shall or may sustain, or be put to by reason of his being such Plaintiff or Defendant.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the Collector or Collectors to be appointed as aforesaid, shall from Time to Time pay over to the Treasurer for the Time being, all and every Sum and Sums of Money by him or them collected or received by reason of their said Office, when and so often as the same shall amount to Ten Pounds or upwards, and that such Collector or Collectors, whenever and as often as he or they is, are, or shall be required by the Churchwardens and Overseers, or Two or more of them, so to do, shall give in a particular, true, and perfect Account or Accounts in Writing, under his or their Hand or Hands, to the said Trustees, at their next Meeting holden under this Act, and shall, if required, verify the same on Oath before some Justice of the Peace acting in and for the County of *Middlesex* (which Oath such Justice of the Peace is hereby empowered to administer,) of all Monies which he or they shall have respectively received, collected, or levied by virtue of this Act, or by Reason or Means of their said Office, and shall from Time to Time, when thereunto required by the Churchwardens and Overseers, or any One or more of them, pay all such Monies as shall be in his or their Hands to the Treasurer as aforesaid; and if any such Collector or Collectors shall neglect or refuse to make and deliver in such Accounts, or to make such Payments, then any Two Justices of the Peace acting in and for the County of *Middlesex*, shall and may, upon Complaint of the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Time being, or any One or more of them, cause the Collector or Collectors to be brought before them, and make Enquiry of and concerning such Neglect or Refusal, as well by the Confession of the Parties, as by the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses; and if any such Collector or Collectors shall be convicted of such Neglect or Refusal before such Justices, they the said Justices shall commit the Person or Persons so offending to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall have made and delivered in a true and perfect Account, and made such Payment as aforesaid: Provided always, that no such Collector or Collectors as aforesaid, who shall be committed under or by virtue of this Act, shall be kept or detained in Prison for a longer Space of Time than Six Calendar Months.

Officers to  
account.

XV. And be it further enacted, That for the better and more effectually raising and levying the Rates and Assessments by this Act directed to be made, that in case any Landlord or Occupier, or any Owner or Owners, Proprietor or Proprietors of any Land, Dwelling House, Shop, Warehouse, Coach House, Stable, Cellar, Vault, Building, Tenement, or Hereditament whatever within the said Parish, shall refuse or neglect to pay the Monies rated or assessed upon him, her, or them respectively, under and by virtue of this Act, and all Arrears thereof, it shall be lawful for any One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and directed, by Writing under his or their Hand or Hands, on Complaint by the said Churchwardens or Overseers, or any One or more of them of the same, of any Person or Persons having refused or neglected, and

Distress may  
be made for  
Rates.

also upon Oath made before such Justice or Justices by the Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors, appointed as aforesaid, of his or their having attended upon or at the Dwelling House or last Place of Abode of all and every Person and Persons then intended to be summoned, and who are or shall be liable to the Payment of the said Rate or Rates, and of Demand having been made thereof, and of the Neglect or Refusal of such Person or Persons to pay the same, to summon all and every such Person and Persons to appear before such Justice or Justices, at a Time and Place to be in such Summons or Summonses mentioned; and it shall be lawful for the Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors for the Time being, or any of the Constables, Headboroughs, or Beadles of the said Parish, to serve all and every such Summons and Summonses, either by delivering the same to the Person or Persons thereby intended to be summoned, or by leaving the same at his, her, or their last or usual Place or Places of Abode, or at the Premises for which the Rate or Rates mentioned in such Summons or Summonses shall remain due and owing; and if any Person or Persons so summoned shall refuse or neglect to attend, or attending shall not shew, to the Satisfaction of such Justice or Justices, that he, she, or they is or are not chargeable with such Rate or Rates, then and in every such Case, every such Person or Persons shall pay the said Rate or Rates, together with the reasonable Costs and Charges of such Summons or Summonses; and if the same shall not be forthwith paid and discharged, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for the said Justice or Justices, and he and they is and are hereby authorized to grant a Warrant or Warrants under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, authorising and directing the said Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors, or any Constable, Headborough, or Beadle of the said Parish, upon the Goods and Chattels of all and every such Person or Persons respectively, whether the said Goods and Chattels shall be found in the said Parish or elsewhere, to make Distress, and thereupon to raise and levy such Rate or Rates, and all Arrears thereof, and the Costs and Charges of the Summons or Summonses, and the Costs, Charges, and Expences of the said Warrant, and of executing the said Distress; and if, within Five Days next after any such Distress shall be so made, the said Rate or Rates, with all Arrears due thereon, shall not be paid, together with the reasonable Charges of the said Summons or Summonses, Warrant or Warrants, and of making such Distress and keeping such Goods and Chattels, the said Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors, Constable or Constables, Headborough or Headboroughs, Beadle or Beadles, or any One of them, shall cause the said Goods to be appraised by One or more Appraiser or Appraisers, and to be sold, or such Part or Parts thereof as shall be sufficient to pay the said Rates or Arrears, together with the said Costs, Charges, and the Expences of appraising and selling the same; the Overplus Money arising from such Sale, if any, together with such Parts of the said Distress as it shall be unnecessary to sell and dispose of for the Purposes aforesaid, to be returned to the Owner or Owners of such Goods and Chattels respectively, upon Demand thereof being made by him, her, or them: Provided always, that in all Cases where any Person refuses or neglects to attend in pursuance of any Summons, no Justice or Justices shall adjudge such Person to pay any Rate or Rates, or grant any Warrant or Warrants to distrain upon and levy the same, of and from his or her Goods and Chattels, until Proof before him or them being made upon Oath, and which Oath the said Justice or

Justices

Justices is or are hereby authorized and empowered to administer, of the Service of the Summons in Manner herein-before required, by the Person who shall have served the same.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That every Warrant of Distress for Non-payment of any Rate or Assessment, shall be made in the Words or to the Effect following :

Form of  
Warrant.

*Middlesex,* } TO the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor and  
to wit. } Collectors of the Poores Rates of the Parish of *Bromley*  
*Saint Leonard*, in the County of *Middlesex*, and to all Constables and other Peace Officers whomsoever, any or either of them : Whereas the undermentioned Persons, now or late Inhabitants, Householders, Landlords, Tenants, or Occupiers in the Whole or in Part, of certain Lands, Houses, Shops, Warehouses, Coach Houses, Stables, Cellars, Vaults, or other Buildings, Tenements, Gardens, or Hereditaments, within the said Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard*, were and are liable to pay the Rate or Rates duly made for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish : And whereas the said Persons have refused or neglected to pay the several Sums of Money at and against their Names hereunder respectively set, and the said several Sum and Sums of Money are still remaining in Arrear and unpaid ; and the said several Persons having been summoned to appear before me [or us] Justices of the Peace acting in and for the County of *Middlesex*, to answer the Premises, as appeareth to me [or us] the said Justice or Justices, upon Oath, and have not respectively shewn any sufficient Cause why the said respective Sum or Sums of Money should not be severally by them paid ; these are therefore, in His Majesty's Name, to will and require you, some or one of you, forthwith of and upon the Goods and Chattels of the said Persons respectively to make Distress, and at the Expiration of Five Days from the Day of making such Distress, to cause the same to be sold, and from such Goods and Chattels respectively to raise and levy the several Sums set against their respective Names, together with the reasonable Charges of the Summons, Warrants, Distress, Sale, and keeping thereof, returning the Surplus, if any, to the Owner of such Goods and Chattels ; and if no sufficient Distress can be had or taken, that then you certify the same to me [or us], to the End such further Proceedings may be had therein as by Law provided and required ; and I [or we] do hereby strictly charge and command all and singular the Constables, and others His Majesty's Peace Officers for the said County, to be aiding and assisting in all Things relating to the Premises. Given under my Hand and Seal [or under our Hands and Seals] the  
Day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of our Lord  
A. B.  
C. D.  
E. F. the Landlord for divided Premises.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That where the yearly Rent or Value of any House, Tenement, or Hereditament, within the said Parish shall not exceed Sixteen Pounds Net Rent, exclusive of such Parochial Rates and Taxes as the Tenants by Law are now liable to ; or where any House, Tenement, or Hereditament shall be let to weekly or monthly Tenants, or in separate Apartments, furnished or unfurnished ; or where the Rent of

How the  
Rates shall  
be paid by  
Lodgers, &c.

of any House, Tenement, or Hereditament shall become payable and liable to be collected at any shorter Periods than quarterly, it shall be lawful for the said Trustees, at any Meeting holden under this Act, if they shall think proper, to compound with the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, of all and every or any such House or Houses, Tenement or Tenements and Hereditaments, for the Payment of the Poor Rates at such a reduced yearly Rental as the said Trustees at such Meeting shall think reasonable, so that such Houses, Tenements, and Hereditaments be not rated at less than One-third, or more than Three-fourths of the Rack Rent at which the same shall then be let, or of the annual Value of the said Premises, and whether such Premises shall be occupied or not; and the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners of such Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments as shall not exceed the yearly Rent as aforesaid, or as shall be let to weekly or monthly Tenants, or in separate Apartments, furnished or unfurnished, or from whence the Rent shall become due and payable at any Period shorter than quarterly, may be required to enter into a Composition with the said Trustees; and in case such Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, shall object to enter into such Composition, he, she, or they shall thenceforth be deemed to be the Occupier or Occupiers of such Premises, and shall be rated to and pay the Rates or Assessments charged upon such their respective Premises, for the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish, according to the Rack Rent or annual Value of such Premises; and upon Nonpayment thereof, the Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors for the Time being, may levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners of the respective Premises aforesaid, wheresoever they shall be found; and if the same shall be occupied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of any Person or Persons inhabiting or occupying the same, or any Part thereof respectively, if such Overseer or Overseers, Collector or Collectors, shall find it expedient so to do: Provided always, that no such Inhabitant or Occupier shall at any Time be required to pay, or be subject or liable to pay, any greater Sum for or towards the Discharge of any such Rate or Assessment, or Arrears thereof, than the Amount of the Rent actually due or payable by such Inhabitant or Occupier, to the Landlord, Owner or Owners, Lessee or Lessees, or their Sub-Tenant or Sub-Tenants of the Premises so occupied by him or her: And provided also, that no such Landlord or Owner shall be charged with or liable to pay for any House, Tenement, or Hereditament for which they shall be so rated and assessed, by reason of his, her, or their not having entered into such Composition as aforesaid during the Time they shall remain empty and unoccupied; nor for or in respect of any increased Rent reserved or made payable to him for or on Account of such Landlord or Owner having agreed to pay the Rate heretofore chargeable upon the Occupier; and that where any House or Tenement shall be let out in Lodgings or separate Apartments, or ready furnished, the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners of all such Premises, shall be deemed and taken to be the Occupier or Occupiers thereof, and be rated and pay the Rates or Assessments in respect thereof for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor.

Tenants, &c.  
may deduct  
Rates paid  
out of Rent.

XVIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Goods and Chattels of any Person or Persons renting or occupying any such House, Tenement, or Hereditament, or any Part or Parts thereof, the Rate or Rates,



Rates, Assessment or Assessments, upon which the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, is or are hereby made subject or liable to pay and discharge as aforesaid, shall be subject and liable at all Times to be distrained and sold for Payment of so much of the said Rates or Assessments, and Arrears thereof, as accrued and became due in respect of the said Premises, during the Time of his, her, or their Occupancy only; and each and every such Occupier or Occupiers who shall pay any such Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, or upon whom the same shall be levied; shall and may from Time to Time deduct the same from the Rent due, and payable from him, her, or them in respect of their said Occupation, or otherwise recover the same, unless there shall be some Agreement to the contrary between such Landlord and Tenant, (and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to such Tenant or Occupier, and to his, her, and their Landlord, for so much Money as he, she, or they shall pay in the Manner directed by this Act): Provided also, that no such Tenant or Occupier, by Payment of any such Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, or occupying any such House, Tenement, or Hereditament, or any Part thereof respectively in Manner aforesaid, and which shall have been so compounded for, or be liable to be compounded for as aforesaid by the Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners thereof, shall or may be deemed to acquire any Settlement thereby in the said Parish; but that such Landlord or Landlords, Owner or Owners, shall be deemed and construed to all Intents and Purposes to have paid the said Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, any Law, Statute, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding: And provided further, that no Tenant or Occupier, unless he, she, or they shall be rated on the Poor Rate Book of the said Parish upon a Rent or yearly Value of Ten Pounds *per Annum* or upwards, and do pay the same, shall have any Power of voting at any Vestry Meeting of the said Parish for the Purpose of this Act.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That in default or failure of Payment of the Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, or of the Arrears so remaining due or unpaid in respect of any such Composition, or any Part thereof as aforesaid, the same shall be and remain a Charge upon the Premises in respect whereof the same shall be so rated and assessed, and shall and may, after Ten Days Notice left upon the Premises, not only be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of any such Owner or Owners, Landlord or Landlords, or of any Person or Persons inhabiting or occupying the same, or any Part thereof, but also shall and may be sued for and recovered of and from such Owner or Owners, Landlord or Landlords respectively, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, to be commenced and prosecuted in the Name of the Vestry Clerk for the Time being; in which Action no Protection, Effoign, or Wager of Law, nor more than One Impar lance, shall be allowed; and if the Plaintiff shall recover in any such Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, he shall have full Costs, to be levied and recovered as other Monies upon Judgements are now by Law levied and recovered.

Rates may be recovered at Law.

XX. And be it further enacted, That in order to avoid the Loss which frequently happens by Tenants or Occupiers of Houses, Tenements, and Hereditaments, quitting and removing from the same before the Quarter

Rates may be demanded and recovered from Tenants re-

moving though before they become due.

Day on which the said Rates or Assessments charged on such Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or in respect thereof, are usually collected and payable, it shall and may be lawful for the Overseer and Overseers, Collector or Collectors under this Act, to demand and receive, Fourteen Days before every such Quarter Day, or at any other subsequent Time, the respective Rates or Assessments which would be so to be collected and payable on such Quarter Day, or for the Time such House or Houses, Tenements, or Hereditaments have been occupied, together with all the Arrears due; and in case of Non-payment thereof, to enforce the Payment thereof in like Manner as if the same had remained unpaid upon or after Quarter Day.

Tenants coming in to be liable to Rates in arrear.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That in case any Person or Persons shall remove out of or from, or quit the Possession of any House, Building, Land, Tenement, or Hereditament, before the Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, severally charged thereon or in respect thereof, shall be paid and discharged; or if any Person or Persons shall enter into the Occupation of any House, Building, Land, Tenement, or Hereditament, out of or from which any Person or Persons shall have so removed, before such Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments, shall have been paid and discharged, then and in every such Case, the Person or Persons so removing or quitting Possession, and the Person or Persons entering into the Occupation as aforesaid, shall be respectively subject and liable to the Payment of all such Rates or Assessments, in proportion to the Time they respectively possess or occupy the same, in like Manner as if the Person or Persons so removing or quitting had remained in the Possession or Occupation of such House, Building, Land, Tenement, or Hereditament, or the Person or Persons so entering into Possession had been originally rated and assessed in such Rates or Assessments; which Proportion shall, in case of Dispute, be settled by the said Trustees, or by any Two or more Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex*, whose Determination respecting the same shall be final and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes.

Exemptions from Rates.

XXII. And whereas it may be reasonable to excuse some Persons from the Payment of Rates and Assessments, or some Part of them, on Account of their Poverty; be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, at any Meeting holden under this Act, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to grant to such Person and Persons such Relief, in the Payment of any Rate or Assessment, as they the said Trustees, Churchwardens, and Overseers, shall think proper.

Workhouse to be built.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Trustees, at any Meeting or Meetings to be held under this Act, to cause and direct a Workhouse or Workhouses to be erected and built in some Part of the said Parish of *Bromley Saint Leonard*, for the better and more convenient Reception and Accommodation of the Poor, and at such Meeting or Meetings to agree and contract with any Person or Persons for hiring, erecting, and building the same, and to cause and order the Expences thereof to be paid, borne, and defrayed from and out of the Poor Rates to be levied upon the Inhabitants of the said Parish: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for the said Trustees, after the said Workhouse or Workhouses shall be built and completed, to cause

or direct any Repairs, Enlargements, Rebuildings, Amendments, or Alterations whatsoever, the Expence whereof shall in the Whole exceed the Sum of One hundred Pounds, to be done or made therein, or to contract for the same, until such Repairs, Enlargements, Rebuildings, Amendments, or Alterations shall have been previously sanctioned and approved of by the Inhabitants of the said Parish, qualified in Manner as is by this Act provided, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at a publick Vestry assembled, of which Vestry and the Purpose thereof Notice shall be given in the Parish Church during Divine Service, at least Ten Days previous to the taking Place of the same.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That no Inhabitant of the said Parish shall be disqualified from giving Evidence in any Action, Suit, Complaint, Prosecution, or Proceeding, to be had, conducted, made, prosecuted, or carried on against any Person or Persons whomsoever, for any Thing had or done under or by virtue or under colour of this Act, by reason of his or her being charged with or liable to pay any Rate or Assessment to be made by virtue of this Act, or of his being an Inhabitant thereof.

Inhabitants  
may be Wit-  
nesses.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where any Person or Persons shall think himself, herself, or themselves, aggrieved by any Rate or Assessment, or by any Order, Conviction, or other Matter or Thing done in pursuance of this Act, and where no other Method of Relief is hereby particularly appointed or directed, it shall and may be lawful for such Person or Persons to appeal to the Justices of the Peace of and for the said County of *Middlesex*, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden in and for the said County, next after they shall be so aggrieved, such Appellant or Appellants first giving or causing to be given Fourteen Days Notice at the least in Writing of his, her, or their Intention to bring such Appeal, and of the Matter thereof, to the said Vestry Clerk, and all other Persons intended to be affected by such Appeal; and further, within Four Days after such Notice given, entering into a Recognizance before some Justice of the Peace in and for the said County, with Two sufficient Sureties, in such reasonable Sum or Sums of Money as such Justice shall direct, conditioned to try such Appeal, and to abide such Order as shall thereupon be made, and to pay such Costs as shall be awarded by the said Justices at such Quarter Sessions; who are hereby authorized, at such Quarter Sessions or some Adjournment thereof, to hear and finally determine the Causes and Matters of every such Appeal in a summary Way, and to award such Restitution, Damages, and Costs to the Appellant or Appellants, Respondent or Respondents, as the said Justice shall think proper; and the said Justices may then and there, if they see cause, mitigate any Forfeiture or Fine, and may order any Money to be returned, which shall have been levied in pursuance of any Rule, Order, or Conviction so appealed against, and award such further Satisfaction to be made to the Party injured as they shall think proper, which Determination of the said Justices, at such Quarter Sessions or Adjournment, shall be final, binding, and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

Appeal.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That no Order, Judgement, Conviction, or other Proceeding touching or concerning any of the Matters

Proceedings  
not to be  
quashed for  
aforesaid,

Want of Form.

aforsaid, or touching or concerning any Offence against this Act shall be quashed or vacated for Want of Form only, or be removed or removable by *Certiorari*, or any other Writ or Process whatsoever, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*; any Law or Statute to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding.

Notice.

XXVII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case there shall not be Time to give the said Fourteen Days Notice before the holding of the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace as aforesaid, then such Appeal shall and may be made to, and heard and determined at the following General Quarter Sessions, the like Notice of Appeal and Recognizance having been previously given and entered into as aforesaid.

Appointment of Contractor for taking away Dust, &c.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, at any Meeting holden under this Act, to contract, for any Time not exceeding Twelve Months, with any Person or Persons for the Sale of the Coal Dust or Ashes, Rubbish, Dust, Dirt, or Filth, (such Contractor to purchase and take away the same from the Houses of the Inhabitants); and such Person or Persons shall once or oftener in every Week bring or cause to be brought convenient Carriages into all Parts of the said Parish where such Carriages can be drawn near or pass into, and at or before the Approach, by Bell, or otherwise by a sufficient Noise or Cry, shall give Notice to the Inhabitants of his or their coming, and give the like Notice in every other Place into which the said Carriages cannot pass, and abide and stay a convenient Time; and the said Contractor or Contractors, or the Person or Persons employed by him or them, shall carry away or cause to be carried away *gratis* from the Premises of such Occupier or Occupiers, all the Ashes, Rubbish, Dust, Dirt, and Filth therein, upon Pain of forfeiting any Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings for every Neglect or Default, except all such Rubbish, Dust, Dirt, and Filth as shall be occasioned by building, repairing, amending, or altering any House or Houses, or any other Building, which said Rubbish, Dust, Dirt, and Filth thereby occasioned, shall forthwith, after such building, repairing, or altering is finished, be carried away by the Owner, or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers of such Houses or Buildings respectively as aforesaid, upon Pain of forfeiting and paying any Sum of Money not exceeding Ten Shillings for every such Offence; and that all Monies arising by such Contract as aforesaid, and all other Monies raised by virtue of this Act, shall be applied towards the Relief of the Poor of the said Parish.

Monies arising by Contract, &c. to be applied towards Relief of the Poor.

Penalties and Punishments attached to Persons, other than Contractor, taking away Dust.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons, other than the Person or Persons contracting with the said Trustees, or those employed under the said Contractor, shall on any Pretence whatever go about to collect or gather, receive, or carry away any Dust, Dirt, Cinders, or Ashes, from any House or other Premises, in any Square, Street, or Place within the said Parish, under the Management of the said Trustees, as agreed to be taken away by such Contractor, it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons who shall see such Offence committed to seize, and also for any other Person or Persons to assist in seizing the Offender or Offenders, and by Authority of this Act, and without any Warrant, to convey him, her, or them, before some Justice of the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex*, and such Justice shall examine on Oath

the

the Person or Persons apprehending the Offender or Offenders, or any Witness or Witnesses who shall appear to give Information touching such Offence; and in case such Person or Persons so offending cannot be immediately seized and apprehended, then, upon Complaint made to any such Justice of the Peace by any Person whatever, he the said Justice may and is hereby required to issue his Summons to cause such Person to be brought before him, and such Justice, on the Party or Parties appearing before him, may and is hereby empowered to inquire into the Matter of Complaint by the Oath of One credible Witness, and if the Party shall be convicted, he, she, or they shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, One Moiety of such Penalty to be paid to the Person or Persons who shall apprehend such Offender, or on whose Oath such Party shall be convicted, and the other Moiety to the said Trustees; and if such Offender shall not immediately upon such Conviction pay the said Penalty, the said Justice is hereby required to commit him or her to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Twenty-one Days, unless such Penalty shall be sooner paid: Provided always, nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to prevent or hinder the Owners of such Dust, Dirt, Cinders, and Ashes, to carry away the same for their own Use, but not for Sale.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That all Penalties and Forfeitures by this Act imposed and incurred (for the Recovery whereof no other Method has herein been directed) shall, unless the same is forthwith upon Conviction paid, be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex*, which Warrant such Justice or Justices is and are hereby empowered and required to issue, upon Proof of the Offences respectively, either by the Confession of the Party or Parties, or upon the Evidence of any credible Witness upon Oath, (which Oath such Justice or Justices is or are hereby empowered and required to administer,) and the Overplus of the Money, if any, arising by such Distress and Sale, shall be returned upon Demand to the Owner of such Goods and Chattels, after deducting the Costs and Charges of such Distress and Sale; and all such Penalties and Forfeitures when recovered, as are not herein directed to be otherwise applied, shall be paid to the Churchwardens and Overseers, or One of them, to be applied by him or them for such of the Purposes of this Act as the said Trustees at any Meeting under this Act shall think fit; and in case such Penalties or Forfeitures shall not be forthwith paid, or sufficient Goods and Chattels cannot be found whereout to levy the same, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices, and he or they is and are hereby authorized and required, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals, to commit such Offender or Offenders to the Common Gaol or House of Correction of and for the said County of *Middlesex*, for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unless such Penalties and Forfeitures, and all reasonable Charges attending the same, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

Recovery of Penalties and Applications; and if sufficient Goods cannot be found to discharge Penalties, Justice may commit such Offender.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where any Person or Persons shall be convicted of any Offence committed against this Act,

[*Loc. & Per.*]

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the

the Conviction shall be in the Words or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Form of  
Conviction.

*Middlesex,* } **B**E it remembered, That on the \_\_\_\_\_ Day  
to wit. } of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ Year of the Reign  
of His Majesty King *George* the Third, and in the Year of our Lord  
\_\_\_\_\_ *A. B.* is convicted before me [*or, us*]  
\_\_\_\_\_ of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of  
*Middlesex* [*here state the Offence, and the Time and Place when and where*  
*the same was committed*] contrary to the Form of the Statute in that  
Case made and provided, and I the said Justice [*or, we the said Justices,*  
*as the Case may be*] do declare and adjudge, that the said *A. B.* hath  
forfeited for his [*or, her*] said Offence the Sum of  
\_\_\_\_\_ Given under my Hand and Seal [*or, our Hands and Seals, as the Case*  
*may be*] the Day and Year first above written.

Want of  
Form in mak-  
ing Distress.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That where any Distress shall be made under and by virtue of this Act, the Distress itself shall not be deemed unlawful, nor the Party or Parties making the same a Trespasser or Trespassers, on Account of any Defect or Want of Form in any Proceeding relating thereto, nor shall the Party or Parties be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers *ab initio* on Account of any Irregularity which shall be afterwards done by the Party or Parties distraining; but the Person or Persons aggrieved by such Irregularity may recover full Satisfaction for the special Damage sustained by reason of such Irregularity, or any other Matter or Thing done or committed by Reason of or under Colour of this Act, in an Action on the Case brought for the same, and not otherwise: Provided always, that no Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall recover in any Action, if Tender of sufficient Amends shall be made by or on the Behalf of the Party or Parties who shall have committed or caused to be committed the Irregularity, Matter, or Thing therein complained of, before such Action brought; and in case no such Tender shall have been made, it shall and may be lawful for the Defendant or Defendants in any such Action, by Leave of the Court where such Action shall depend, at any Time before Trial had, to pay into Court such Sum of Money as he or they shall see fit; whereupon such Proceedings or Order and Judgement shall be had, made, and given in and by such Court, as in other Actions where the Defendant is allowed to pay Money into Court.

Limitation  
of Actions.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That no Action or Suit shall be brought, commenced, or prosecuted against any Person or Persons, for any Thing done or to be done by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, or by Reason or under Colour thereof, unless Notice in Writing, signed by the Attorney for the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, shall have been given to the Clerk or Clerks to the said Trustees, or left at his or their last or usual Place of Abode Twenty-one Days before such Action shall be commenced, of such intended Action, and specifying the Cause thereof, nor after Six Months next after the Fact shall have been committed, or the Cause of such Action shall have arisen; and every such Action shall be brought and laid in the County of *Middlesex*, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in every such Action or Suit shall and may, at his, her, or their Election, either plead specially, or give the special  
Matter

Matter in Evidence under the General Issue, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance or by the Authority of this Act; and if, upon the Trial of such Action or Suit, it shall appear to have been so done, or that such Action or Suit shall have been brought without Notice, or before the Expiration of Twenty-one Days next after such Notice shall have been given, or after a sufficient Satisfaction made or tendered as aforesaid, or after the Time hereby limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought or laid in any other County than as aforesaid, then and in every of the said Cases the Jury shall find a Verdict for the Defendant or Defendants; and in Cases where a Verdict shall be found for any Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs therein shall discontinue the same, or be nonprossed, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared thereto, or shall be nonsuited; or if upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, then and in every such Case the Defendant or Defendants shall recover Treble Costs, and have such and the like Remedy for recovering the same, as any Defendant or Defendants have or hath for recovering Costs of Suit in any other Cases by Law.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That all the Costs, Charges, and Expences incident to or attending the obtaining and passing of this Act, shall be first borne, paid, and defrayed out of the first Rates or Assessments raised, levied, or collected after the passing of this Act. For paying the Expences of this Act.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Publick Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and others, without being specially pleaded. Publick Act.

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