



ANNO QUARTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

Cap. xxi.

An Act for appointing Select Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor of the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal Green* in the County of *Middlesex*; and for altering and amending Two Acts passed in the Thirteenth and Fifty-third Years of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, relating to the same. [12th *May* 1823.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to enable the Inhabitants of the Parish of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green in the County of Middlesex, to pay Debts already contracted in finishing and furnishing their Workhouse, and on account of the Poor of the said Parish, and for their further Relief*; it is enacted, that the Rector of the said Parish Church, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, and all and every other Person and Persons (resident or not resident) within the said Parish, who are or shall be seised or possessed of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments of the yearly Value of Eighty Pounds or upwards *per Annum* within the said Parish, and all and every Person and Persons who shall have served or fined for the Office of Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish, being Inhabitants, and who shall rent a Messuage, Lands, or Tenement of Ten Pounds a Year or upwards in the same Parish, and all other Persons being Inhabitants of the said Parish, and who shall rent a Messuage, Lands,

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13 G. 3. c. 53.

Lands, or Tenement of Fifteen Pounds a Year or upwards in the same Parish, and none others, shall be Vestrymen of the said Parish for the Time being: And whereas by the said recited Act it is also enacted, that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor and Vestrymen of the said Parish shall assemble and meet in the Vestry Room of the said Parish annually, on *Tuesday* in *Easter Week*, or within the Space of *Twenty Days* after, and they or the major Part of them so assembled shall then and there nominate and appoint *Twenty* substantial and discreet Persons, being Vestrymen and residing within the said Parish, who, together with the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, and all and every Person and Persons (resident or not resident within the said Parish) who are or shall be seised or possessed of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments of the yearly Value of *Eighty Pounds per Annum* or upwards within the said Parish, shall be and be called *Governors and Directors* of the Poor of the said Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal Green*: And whereas by a certain Act, passed in the *Fifty-third Year* of the Reign of His said late Majesty, intituled *An Act for the better Relief and Maintenance of the Poor, and for making a more adequate Provision for the Rector of the said Parish of Saint Matthew Bethnal Green in the County of Middlesex, and for more effectually lighting, watching, cleansing, and improving the Streets and other public Places of and within the said Parish*; it is enacted, that the Rector and the Churchwardens and Overseers for the Time being of the said Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal Green*, and the several Persons therein named, being *Thirty-two* Vestrymen, Inhabitant Householders within the said Parish, and their Successors, to be nominated and appointed in manner directed by the said recited Acts of the *Third and Thirteenth Years* of the Reign of His present Majesty, shall be *Governors and Directors* of the Poor for carrying into Execution the several Purposes of the said last-mentioned Acts, and of the Provisions hereinafter contained, relating to the Affairs of the Poor of the said Parish: And whereas it is expedient to amend the said Acts: 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, so much and such Parts of the said Acts as are above recited shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

53G.3. c.113.

So much of recited Acts, as to Vestrymen, and as to Governors and Directors of the Poor, repealed.

Inhabitant Householders to be Electors of Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, all Male Persons who shall for the Space of Six Calendar Months have been Inhabitant Householders of the said Parish, and who shall have been for that Time assessed and rated in the Poor Rate Books of the said Parish to the Relief of the Poor thereof, in respect of any Messuage, Lands, or Hereditaments within the same, shall be Electors of Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors, and no other Persons whomsoever, except as herein-after mentioned; any thing contained in any former Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors appointed.

III. And be it further enacted, That *Richard Bigg junior, Thomas Blanchett, Thomas Bliss, William Bragg, William Bridges, Josiah Boydell, William Brown (Gibraltar Place), Thomas Bishop, Robert Carpenter, William City, John Clarke (Brick Lane), Benjamin Clarke, John Cole (Fuller Street), Thomas Cole (Pollard's Row), William Cobbett, Thomas Cutbill,*

John Crew, William Daman, Edward Eagles, Alexander Forbes, Robert Gamman, Jonathan Gibbons, John Gilbert, Nathaniel Hardingham, Thomas Harford, Daniel Hill, Thomas Horncastle, John Hughes (Bethnal Green Road), William Impey, Henry Jackson, Richard Jefferson, William Jones, Richard Kain, John King, Lewis Levy, John Litchfield, John Malcham, William Manneke, Joseph Mann, Thomas Marsden, Joseph Marshall, Charles Stanley Masterman, James May, John Newport, Joseph Porter, Francis Rackham, George Ransom, Isaac Rennoldson, William Saunders, Thomas Simmons, James Stilleux, Samuel Stevens, John Toms, George Turner, Richard Vaughan (Church Street), John Walker, Thomas Waterlow, Nathaniel Whales, William White (Hare Street), and William Young, being Sixty Inhabitant Householders of the said Parish, (and who are respectively rated in the Poor Rate Books thereof at the Sum of Fifteen Pounds or upwards, in one Sum, as annual Rent or Value, and their Successors, to be elected as herein-after mentioned, shall be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish, and shall continue to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor thereof, until the First *Tuesday* in the Month of *March* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, when *William Bragg, Richard Bigg junior, Thomas Blanchett, William Bridges, Thomas Bliss, Thomas Bishop, Josiah Boyde, Robert Carpenter, John Clarke, and John Cole,* being Ten of the said Sixty Persons, shall cease to be Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor, and that then, or within Seven Days afterwards, the Electors of Vestrymen duly qualified as aforesaid shall meet in the Governor's Room in the Workhouse of the said Parish, (due Notice of such Meeting having been given in the usual Manner immediately after Divine Service on the *Sunday* next preceding such Day of Meeting, and shall then and there choose, nominate, and appoint Ten Persons, Inhabitant Householders of the said Parish, who shall be respectively rated in the Poor Rate Books thereof at the Sum of Fifteen Pounds or upwards, as annual Rent or Value, in the Place of such Ten Persons so ceasing to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor; and that on the First *Tuesday* in *March* in every succeeding Year, or within Seven Days afterwards, the said Electors of Vestrymen shall meet as aforesaid, and elect Ten Persons in the Place of Ten other of the said Sixty Persons who shall then cease to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor; and that the said Persons who shall so cease to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor, shall be taken in alphabetical Order every Year, until the Remainder of the above-named Sixty Persons shall have been superseded, and from and after that Time the Ten Persons who annually cease to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor, shall be taken in Rotation in the Order in which they were elected, and that every Person who shall from Time to Time cease to be a Vestryman, Governor and Director of the Poor as aforesaid, shall not be eligible to be re-elected for One Year.

Mode of
future Ap-
pointment.

IV. And be it further enacted, That all Vacancies which may from Time to Time happen among the said Sixty Persons and their Successors, shall be filled up by the said Electors of Vestrymen at the Time of their annual Meeting as aforesaid, and every Person who shall be elected to fill any such Vacancy shall stand in the Order of Rotation in which the Person was whose Vacancy he shall be elected to supply; but in case any Vacancy or Vacancies shall happen among the Ten Persons who would
cease

Supplying
Vacancies.

cease to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor, at their next annual Meeting, according to the Provisions herein-before contained, such Vacancy or Vacancies shall be reckoned among and form Part of the said Number of Ten, in the same Manner as they would have been had no such Vacancy or Vacancies taken place.

No Person to have a Right to vote who occupy Houses compounded for, or who shall have been excused the Payment of Rates.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That no Person or Persons shall be entitled to vote or be present at any Meeting or Meetings of Electors of Vestrymen, Governors and Directors, held in and for the said Parish, who shall inhabit any House, Premises, or Tenement, which are either compounded for by the Landlord or Owner thereof, pursuant to the said recited Statute of the Fifty-third Year of the Reign of King *George* the Third, or who shall, within Twelve Calendar Months next before the Occasion upon which such Person or Persons shall claim to exercise the Right of Electors of Vestrymen, have been at his or their own Request excused Payment of his or their Rates on the Score of Poverty, or who shall within that Time have received Parochial Relief, or who shall be in Arrear for Six Calendar Months in the Payment of any Poor Rate or Duty after it has been made, provided the same shall have been duly demanded within the said Six Months.

Qualification of Electors of Estate Governors and Directors of the Poor.

VI. And be it further enacted, That all and every Person or Persons, resident or not resident within the said Parish, who are or shall be seised or possessed of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within the said Parish of the clear yearly Value of Eighty Pounds or upwards, over and above and clear of all Deductions and Incumbrances whatsoever (Land Tax excepted), who shall deliver to the Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish for the Time being, or One of them, a particular Description of the said Property in Writing, verified upon Oath in the Form in the Schedule hereunto annexed, before One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, (which Oath the said Justice is hereby empowered and directed to administer), shall be and be called Electors of Vestrymen, Estate Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish.

Thirty Persons residing within the Division of the Tower Hamlets to be appointed Vestrymen, Governors and Directors.

VII. And be it further enacted, That within Thirty Days after the passing of this Act the Electors of Vestrymen, Estate Governors and Directors of the Poor, duly qualified as aforesaid, shall, upon Notice of such Meeting having been duly given in the Church of the said Parish, on the *Sunday* next preceding such Meeting, meet at the Governor's Room aforesaid, and shall then and there choose, nominate, and appoint from among themselves Thirty Persons, resident within the Division of the Tower Hamlets, to be Vestrymen, Governors and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish, in Conjunction with the Sixty Persons to be chosen, nominated, and appointed as aforesaid; and that when any Vacancy shall occur in the said Number of Vestrymen, Estate Governors and Directors, by Death, Resignation, Non-residence, or Disqualification, the said last-mentioned Electors shall from Time to Time in like Manner elect other Persons from among themselves, resident as aforesaid, to supply such Vacancies as aforesaid, and that such Ninety Persons so to be elected, together with the Rector, Treasurers of the Poor Rate Funds, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor for the Time being, together with every Person who shall after the passing of this Act serve the Office
of

of Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish, and who shall be an Inhabitant Householder, and rated to the Relief of the Poor at the Sum of Fifteen Pounds or upwards, in one Sum, as Annual Rent or Value in the Poor Rate Books of the said Parish, shall be and be called Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish, and shall constitute the whole Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor thereof, and no other Persons whomsoever; and they shall from Time to Time carry into Execution all the Provisions of the several Acts of Parliament heretofore made and now in force for the Regulation and Government of the Poor of the said Parish, and shall and may use and exercise all such other legal Rights, Powers, and Authorities, as the Vestrymen, Governors, and Directors of the Poor of the said Parish respectively had and exercised before the passing of this Act, so far as the same may remain in force, and are not affected or repealed by virtue of any of the Provisions herein contained: Provided always, that such Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish shall be and continue to be such Vestryman, Governor, and Director of the Poor for One Year only after he shall cease to be such Churchwarden or Overseer.

VIII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to disqualify or remove any of the Commissioners or Officers appointed under the Authority of any Act or Acts for paving and repairing certain Streets, Lanes, and other Public Passages and Places in the said Parish.

Act not to affect Commissioners of Pavements.

IX. And be it further enacted, That Elections for Vestrymen and all other Questions shall be determined by a Shew of Hands, but whenever a Shew of Hands is not satisfactory, a Ballot may be demanded, and acted upon accordingly.

Election of Vestrymen.

X. And be it further enacted, That if any Person not being duly qualified, or not having taken and subscribed such Oath, and delivered a true Description of his Estate in the said Parish under his Hand, shall presume to act as a Vestryman, Estate Governor, and Director of the Poor in the Execution of this Act, every such Person shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of One hundred Pounds, together with full Costs of Suit, to any Person or Persons who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, nor more than one Imparance, shall be allowed, and wherein the Proof of such Qualification shall lie on the Defendant, and it shall be sufficient on the Part of the Plaintiff or Prosecutor to prove that the Defendant had acted at any Meeting or Meetings for the Execution of this Act.

Penalty on Persons acting not being qualified.

XI. And be it further enacted, That at any Meeting to be held in pursuance of the Powers and Authorities of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Rector or Officiating Minister of the said Parish, resident within the said Parish, and he is hereby authorized to take the Chair at all such Meetings, if he shall be present.

Rector or Minister for the Time being to be Chairman of Select Vestry Meetings.

Vestrymen,
&c. neglect-
ing to attend,
to be disqua-
lified.

XII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any Person who shall be appointed or elected a Vestryman, Governor, and Director of the Poor of the said Parish, shall neglect to attend at least one Meeting in any Year, he shall from thenceforth cease to be a Vestryman, Governor, and Director of the Poor within the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Directing a
Book to be
kept for the
Entry of
Qualifications
of Estate
Governors.

XIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That a Book to be called the Qualification Book shall be provided by the Overseers, and kept by the Vestry Clerk for the Time being, in which shall be entered alphabetically the Name of every Vestryman, Estate Governor, and Director of the Poor, so to be chosen as aforesaid; together with a true Description of the Lands, Messuages, Tenements, or Hereditaments within the said Parish, out of or from which Estate such Vestryman, Estate Governor, and Director of the Poor is qualified to be elected or appointed under or by virtue of this Act, which said Book the Electors of Vestrymen for the said Parish shall have free Access to, and the Right and Liberty of inspecting the same, upon Payment of One Shilling, and of taking Copies thereof, upon Payment of Two Shillings and Sixpence for each such Copy.

Paying Ex-
pences of the
Act.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the Costs and Expences of preparing, obtaining, and passing this Act, and all other Charges incident or relating thereto, shall be paid by the Treasurers of the Poor Rate Fund, out of the first Monies that shall be received by the Collectors, and paid into the Bank of *England* to the Account of the said Treasurers.

Public Act.

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

SCHEDULE referred to by this Act.

I *A. B.* do swear [*or, being One of the People called Quakers, do solemnly affirm*], That I truly and *bona fide* am in my own Right, (*or in the Right of my Wife*), in the actual Possession and Enjoyment or Receipt of the Rents and Profits issuing out of Freehold (*or Copyhold or Leasehold*) Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, in the Parish of *Saint Matthew Bethnal Green* in the County of *Middlesex*, of the clear yearly Value of Eighty Pounds above Reprizes, (Land Tax excepted), and that such Rents and Profits arise from and are issuing out of the Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments herein-after mentioned, that is to say, (*here describe the Premises and Names of Occupiers*). So help me GOD.
[*Or, being a Quaker, omit the Words, So help me GOD.*]

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