Anno ſexto

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXV.

An Act for better regulating Apprentices, and Perſons working under Contract.



WHEREAS Perſons employed in ſeveral Manufactories of this Kingdom frequently take Apprentices who are very young, and, for ſeveral Years of their Apprenticeſhips, are rather a Burthen than otherwiſe to their Maſters: And whereas it frequently happens that ſuch Apprentices, when they might be expected to be uſeful to their Maſters, abſent themſelves from their Service: And whereas the Laws in being are not ſufficient to prevent theſe Inconveniencies: For Remedy whereof, may it pleaſe Your Majeſty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by Preamble.

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 Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, if any Apprentice shall absent himself from his Master's Service, before the Term of his Apprenticeship shall be expired, every such Apprentice shall, at any Time or Times thereafter, whenever he shall be found, be compelled to serve his said Master for so long a Time as he shall have so absented himself from such Service, unless he shall make Satisfaction to his Master for the Loss he shall have sustained by his Absence from his Service; and so, from time to time, as often as any such Apprentice shall, without Leave of his Master, absent himself from his Service, before the Term of his Contract shall be fulfilled; And in case any such Apprentice shall refuse to serve as hereby required, or to make such Satisfaction to his Master, such Master may complain, upon Oath, to any Justice of the Peace of the County or Place where he shall reside, which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered to administer, and to issue a Warrant under his Hand and Seal for apprehending any such Apprentice; and such Justice, upon hearing the Complaint, may determine what Satisfaction shall be made to such Master by such Apprentice; and in case such Apprentice shall not give Security to make such Satisfaction according to such Determination, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice to commit every such Apprentice to the House of Correction for any Time not exceeding Three Months.

Justices impowered to oblige Apprentice absenting before Expiration of his Apprenticeship, to serve for such Term as he shall absent,

or to make Satisfaction;

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to any Apprentice, whose Master shall have received with such Apprentice the Sum of Ten Pounds,

except as to Apprentices paying 10 *l.* Fee;

Provided also, That no Apprentice shall be compelled to serve for any Time or Term, or to make any Satisfaction to any Master, after the Expiration of Seven years next after the End of the Term for which such Apprentice shall have contracted to serve; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

or where 7 Years shall have elapsed.

And whereas it frequently happens that Artificers, Callicoe Printers, Handicraftsmen, Miners, Colliers, Keelmen, Pitmen, Glassmen, Potters, Labourers, and others, who contract with Persons for certain Terms, do

leave their respective Services before the Terms of their Contracts are fulfilled; to the great Disappointment and Loss of the Persons with whom they so contract: For Remedy whereof, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, if any Artificer, Callicoe Printer, Handicraftsman, Miner, Collier, Keelman, Pitman, Glassman, Potter, Labourer, or other Person, shall contract with any Person whomsoever for any Time or Term whatsoever, and shall absent himself from his Service before the Term of his Contract shall be compleated, or be guilty of any other Misdemeanor, that then, and in every such Case, it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Peace of the County or Place where any such Artificer, Callicoe Printer, Handicraftsman, Miner, Collier, Keelman, Pitman, Glassman, Potter, Labourer, or other Person, shall be found, and such Justice is hereby authorized and impowered, upon Complaint thereof made upon Oath to him by the Person with whom such Artificer, Callicoe Printer, Handicraftsman, Miner, Collier, Keelman, Pitman, Glassman, Potter, Labourer, or other Person, shall have so contracted, or by his or her Steward or Agent, which Oath such Justice is hereby impowered to administer, to issue his Warrant for the apprehending every such Artificer, Callicoe Printer, Handicraftsman, Miner, Collier, Keelman, Pitman, Glassman, Potter, Labourer, or other Person, and to examine into the Nature of the Complaint; and if it shall appear to such Justice that any such Artificer, Callicoe Printer, Handicraftsman, Miner, Collier, Keelman, Pitman, Glassman, Potter, Labourer, or other Person, shall not have fulfilled such Contract, or hath been guilty of any Misdemeanor, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice to commit every such Person to the House of Correction for the County or Place where such Justices shall reside, for any Time not exceeding Three Months, nor less than One Month.

Justices impowered to grant Warrants against Artificers and others not fulfilling their Contract, or being guilty of any Misdemeanor,

and upon Conviction to commit the Offender.

Provided always, That if any Person shall think himself aggrieved by such Determination, Order, or Warrant, of any Justice of the Peace as aforesaid, except an Order of Commitment, every such Person may appeal to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the County or Place where such Determination or Order shall be made; such Person giving Six Days Notice of his Intention of bringing such Appeal, and of the

Persons aggrieved by the Order of a Justice (except in Cases of Commitment) may appeal;

giving Notice to the Justice, and entering into Recognizance, &c.

Cause and Matter thereof, to such Justice of the Peace and the Parties concerned, and entering into a Recognizance within Three Days after such Notice, before some Justice of the Peace for such County or Place, with sufficient Surety, conditioned to try such Appeal at, and abide the Order or Judgement of, and pay such Costs as shall be awarded by, the Justices at such Quarter Sessions; which said Justices, at their said Sessions, upon due Proof of such Notice being given, and of entering into such Recognizance as aforesaid, shall and are hereby directed to proceed in, hear, and determine, the Causes and Matters of all such Appeals; and shall give such Relief and Costs to the Parties appealing or appealed against, as they, in their Discretion, shall judge proper and reasonable; and their Judgements and Orders therein shall be final and conclusive to all Parties concerned.

Justices at the Quarter Sessions impowered to determine the Appeal,

and award Costs.

Limitation of this Act with respect to the Stannaries, and City of *London*.

Provided also, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to the Stannaries in the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, or to impeach or lessen the Jurisdiction of the Chamberlain of the City of London, or of any other Court within the said City, touching Apprentices.

FINIS.