ANNO UNDECIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XIV.

An Act for better regulating the Poor within the City of *Oxford*.

WHEREAS the Poor in the City of Oxford are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expence by their respective Parishes and Places: And whereas the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor of the said City, and providing a Place for their general Reception, will tend to the more effectual Assistance and Relief of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Diseases, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour, to the better Employment of the Able and Industrious, to the Correction and Punishment of the Profligate and Idle, and to the Education of Poor Children in Religion and Preamble.

Industry; and thereby the Poor, instead of being wholly supported by the Publick, may contribute to the Support, Assistance, and Relief, mutually, of each other, and be of some Advantage to the Community, to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous Burthen: 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 the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, Assistants, Town Clerk, and Solicitor of the said City, for the Time being, and also such charitable Persons who shall, from Time to Time, be elected under the Powers herein contained, and also the respective Numbers following, of the Inhabitants of the said City, to be elected in Manner herein after directed; (that is to say) For the Parish of All Saints, Three; St. Aldate's, Four; St. Abby, Two; Holywell, Three; St. Martin's, Three; St. Mary Magdalen, Four; St. Mary the Virgin, Three; St. Michael's, Three; St. Peter le Bailey, Two; St. Peter in the East, Three; and the Parish of St. Thomas, Four; all resident within the said Parishes, or so many of such Inhabitants, who shall from Time to Time be so elected, shall be, and are hereby declared to be incorporated by the Name of The Guardians of the Poor within the City of *Oxford*; and shall for ever, in Name and Fact, be One Body Politick and Corporate in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have a perpetual Succession, and a Common Seal, and shall be and be called Guardians of the Poor within the City of *Oxford*; and shall be enabled to sue and plead, and be sued by that Name in all Courts and Places of Judicature within that Part of Great Britain called England; and by that Name shall and may, without Licence in Mortmain, purchase, take, or receive, any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the Gift, Alienation, or Demise, of any Person or Persons, for any Estate or Interest whatsoever, and who are hereby enabled to convey or devise the same, and to give or bequeath any Money, Goods, and Chattels whatsoever, for the Use and Benefit of the Corporation aforesaid; and by that Name the said Corporation may and are hereby impowered to convey, assign, release, transfer, or dispose of any such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Money, Goods, or Chattels, for the Benefit and Use of the said Corporation, as there shall be Occasion: And the said Guardians shall have, and are hereby declared to have Power and

Guardians.

Authority,

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Authority, from Time to Time, at any special Court or Assembly, to be held in pursuance of this Act, to make and ordain such Bye Laws, Rules, and Ordinances, and also to vary, alter, change, or repeal the same, or any Part thereof, for the better governing such Corporation, and the Poor which shall be under their Care, and for carrying on any Trade, Business, or Manufacture that shall be set on foot by such Corporation, for the Employment of the said Poor, and other the Ends and Purposes of this Act, as by the major Part of the Guardians present at such Court or Assembly shall be thought proper; which said Bye Laws, Rules, and Ordinances so made, ordained, varied, altered, or changed, shall, at each such Court, be fairly entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, which shall be called The Book of Statutes; and all such Bye Laws, Rules, and Ordinances, when entered as aforesaid, shall be subscribed by the Guardians, or the major Part of them present, and all such Bye Laws, Rules, and Ordinances, shall, until repealed, varied, or altered by some succeeding Special Court, be binding to all Parties hereby intended to be affected by the same.

Bye Laws, &c.

to be entered in Books.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That on the First Sunday after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, immediately after divine Service in the Forenoon or Afternoon, and so in like Manner on every Sunday next following the Twenty-fourth Day of June in every Year, for ever, or on some other Day, within Ten Days next after every such Twenty-fourth Day of June, the Parishioners of the said respective Parishes herein before named, or any Seven or more of them, (who shall by Law have Power to vote in Vestry) shall and may meet in the Vestry-room in and belonging to each of the said Parish Churches, or in some Part of each such Church, and elect so many of the Inhabitants of the said City, qualified as herein after is mentioned, to represent each such Parish, and to act as Guardians of the Poor of the said City, who shall severally continue in, and execute such Office, until others shall be chosen in their Places; and in case any of the said Guardians, to be elected as aforesaid, shall die or refuse to act, some other such Inhabitant or Inhabitants of the said City, so qualified as aforesaid, shall be elected in his or their Stead, within Ten Days after the Death or Refusal to act of each such former Guardians, by such the Parishioners of the proper Parish, not being less than Three, who shall and

Time of Meeting to elect Guardians in each Parish.

hereby have Power to meet together in Vestry, for such Purpose: And all such Vestries shall be called and held at and within the respective Times aforesaid, for and in respect of the said several Parishes: And the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of each and every such Parish shall, and are hereby required to call and and hold the same with the Parishioners who shall be there assembled, and cause previous Notice of each such Vestry to be given in their respective Parish Church, on Sunday after Service, at least One Week before such intended Meeting, to the Intent the Parishioners may and shall attend every such Vestry: And in case any such Church-wardens or Overseers shall neglect or refuse to call and hold, and to give such previous Notice of every Vestry directed to be called as aforesaid, or to attend the same themselves, unless prevented by Illness, or any extraordinary Occasion, to be allowed of by the Majority of Persons present, every such Church-warden or Overseer shall, for every such Neglect or Refusal, forfeit and pay, out of their own Estate, the Sum of Five Pounds, for the Use of the said Corporation, within Twenty Days after each such Forfeiture shall be incurred: And in case at the holding of any such Vestries as aforesaid, so many of the Parishioners shall not attend there as before directed, besides the said Church-wardens or Overseers, or any Two or more of them; then, and in every such Case, the said Church-wardens and Overseers, or any Two or more of them, together with so many of such Parishioners as shall attend, or for Want of any such Parishioners, then the said Church-wardens and Overseers alone, or the Majority of them then present, shall and may, and they are hereby impowered, in every such Case, to nominate, elect, and chuse so many Inhabitants of the said City to represent the same Parish as Guardians as shall be then wanting to be chosen, as fully and effectually as if all the Church-wardens and Overseers, and so many of the Parishioners of the same Parish as are before directed to compose each such Vestry, had then and there attended, and been present.

and Penalty for refusing to call a Vestry.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Person shall be capable of being elected, or of acting as a Guardian under this Act, unless he shall then rent an Estate of the yearly Rent or Value of Ten Pounds or upwards, or be intitled to an Estate in the said City of the yearly Value of Ten Pounds or upwards, for which he shall pay or allow Taxes for the Time being, towards the Relief of the Poor, in his own Right.

Qualification of Guardians.

And

And be it further enacted, That the said Guardians, so elected as aforesaid, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall meet on the Second Monday in July, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, or within Six Days next following, in the Council Chamber, or in some other convenient Place in the said City; and, being so assembled, shall proceed to the Execution of this Act, and elect and constitute out of and from among themselves, the said Guardians, the several Officers to act in and as Part of the said Corporation, as follows; that is to say, One Governor, Two or more Deputy-governors, One or more Treasurer or Treasurers, and One or more Auditor or Auditors, and such other Officers by such Name and Names, to continue in such respective Offices from thenceforth for One Year, and from the End of such One Year, so often as the Case shall require, until other such like Officers are chosen, as hereafter directed; and from and after such first Election of such several Officers, the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall, and hereby have full Power to assemble in the House of Industry for the Time being, and there to elect and constitute, out of and from amongst the whole Number of the said Corporation for the Time being, on the Second Monday in July in every Year for ever, or within Six Days next after every such Second Monday in July, One Governor, and such Deputy-governors and other Officers as are before named, to continue in their respective Offices for One Year, or until others shall be chosen within the Time, and according to the Directions aforesaid; and the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall, and are hereby impowered, in case of the Death of any such Officer or Officers so chosen before the Expiration of his or their said Office, within Thirty Days next afterwards, to meet in the House of Industry for the Time being, and elect such other or others of the said Corporation, in the Place of him or them so dying, to hold the said Office respectively, for the Remainder of the Term such deceased Officer would have held the same; and the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, are hereby authorised, for just Cause, at any Special or Monthly Court or Courts, to remove and displace any of the aforesaid Officers out of their Office, and thereupon to elect and constitute from amongst themselves, a fit Person to supply the Office for the Time each such removed Person would have continued therein, in case he had not been removed.

First Meeting.

Guardians to elect Officers.

Annual Governors to be chosen.

Provided

Guardians to take the following

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Guardians, before they shall take upon themselves the Execution of any of the Powers or Authorities hereby given, other than the administering the Oath following to one another, shall severally take the following Oath; (that is to say,)

Oath.

I *A B* will, without Favour or Affection, Hatred or Malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, execute and perform all and every the Trusts, Powers, and Authorities, as a Guardian, and also of the Office of (as the Case shall be) appointed in pursuance of an Act, passed in the Eleventh Year of King *George* the Third, for better regulating the Poor within the City of *Oxford*:

So help me GOD.

Which Oath the said Guardians, or Members of the said Corporation, or any One or more of them, is, and are hereby required and impowered to administer, at their First Meeting or Court, or at any subsequent Meeting or Court, to be from Time to Time had and held in pursuance of this Act.

Penalty on Refusal to act.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person who, from and after the said Second Monday in July, shall be duly qualified, elected, and constituted into the Trust or Office of a Guardian, Governor, Deputy-governor, Treasurer, Auditor, or of any other nominal Office of and belonging to the said Corporation, by virtue of and according to the Tenor of this Act, and shall, after Ten Days Notice thereof in Writing, signed by the Governor, or any One Deputy-governor, or any Three Guardians for the Time being of the said Corporation, given to him, or left at his own House or Place of Abode, wilfully and obstinately, and without reasonable Cause to be by him shewn, and to be approved of by the said Corporation, or the Majority thereof present at their next Court, to be held in pursuance of this Act, after the Expiration of such Ten Days, refuse or neglect to accept of, and to take upon him such Trust or Office; or in case of accepting the same, shall refuse or neglect to act therein, from Time to Time, for and during the Term mentioned for that Purpose in this present Act, and as the Duty of such Trust and Office may require, shall respectively forfeit and pay to the Use of the said Corporation, the Sums of Money following; that is to say, each such Person to be duly elected Governor of the said Corporation, the Sum of Twenty Pounds;

Pounds; each such Person to be duly elected Deputy-governor thereof, the Sum of Fifteen Pounds; each such Person to be duly elected Treasurer thereof, the Sum of Twelve Pounds and Ten Shillings; each such Person to be duly elected Auditor, or any other nominal Officer from amongst the said Guardians, the Sum of Twelve Pounds and Ten Shillings; and each such Person hereby, or to be duly appointed or elected a Guardian of the said Corporation for the Time being, the Sum of Five Pounds: And in case of any such Refusal or Neglect to accept any such Trust or Office as aforesaid, some other qualified and fit Person or Persons shall, with all convenient Speed, be duly, and according to the Directions of this Act, elected and constituted, as in the first Instance, in the Stead of him or them so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid.

No Person liable to serve again within 5 Years after the first Election and acting;

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person who shall be elected or constituted as aforesaid a Guardian, Governor, Deputy-governor, Treasurer, Auditor, or any other nominal Officer of the said Corporation, and shall take upon him the said Trust or Office, and shall act therein, from Time to Time, for and during the Time herein expressed for that Purpose, and as the Duty of such Trust or Office may require, shall, upon any Re-election of him within the Space of Five Years next after the End of such Time he was elected, and so acted, be thereupon compellable to take upon him, or to act in the said re-elected Trust or Offices, or any of them, without his own free Consent, or be liable to any Penalty or Forfeiture whatsoever for refusing or neglecting so to do: And that no Person, of the Age of Sixty Years and upwards, shall be compellable to take upon him, or to act in any of the Trusts or Offices aforesaid.

nor to serve, if he is 60 Years of Age.

Guardians to hold weekly Courts;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians for the Time being, or any Five or more of them, shall have Power, and are hereby enjoined and required, from Time to Time, from and after the End of Ten Days immediately following the said Second Monday in July, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, to meet and to hold a Court or Assembly of the said Corporation, in the Council Chamber, or some other convenient Place, 'till a proper Workhouse or House of Industry is provided, and then in the said House of Industry for the Time being on Thursday in every Week for ever, between the Hours of Three and Seven in the Afternoon; and that the said

Guardians for the Time being, or any Nine or more of them, whereof the Governor or One Deputy-governor shall be One, shall, and are hereby required, from and after the said Second Monday in July, to hold a Special Court or Assembly in the said Council Chamber, or in such House of Industry, to be called A General Board, on the First Thursday in every following Month for ever, between the same Hours as are before appointed for the holding of each weekly Court: And also that the Governor for the Time being, or all the Deputy-governors, or any Two or more of them, without the said Governor for the Time being, shall, and hereby hath and have Power and Authority, at any such Time or Times as to him or them shall seem meet, to summon, assemble, and hold any other Special Court or Assembly of the said Corporation, to consist of Nine of the Members thereof at least, upon Two Days Notice exclusive being given, under the Hand or Hands of such Governor or Deputy-governor so calling the same, to the said several Guardians for the Time being, or left at each of their Places of Abode in the said City of Oxford, expressing the Time of holding such Court or Assembly: And in case any Thirteen of the said Guardians for the Time being, upon any Emergency, shall signify it under their Hands to the said Governor, or in his Absence from the said City of Oxford, to the said Deputy-governors, or any Two of them for the Time being, that it is their Desire that an Extraordinary Court or Assembly of the said Corporation may be called and held, which shall always consist of Twenty-one of the said Guardians at least, the said Governor, or in such his Absence, the said Deputy-governors, or any Two of them shall, and are hereby enjoined and required to summon, call, and hold such Court or Assembly at such Time as the said Thirteen Guardians shall so desire; and on Refusal or Neglect of the said Governor, after any such Request to him, the said Deputy-governors for the Time being, or One of them, on receiving such Signification from any Thirteen of the said Guardians, shall be bound, and are, and is hereby likewise enjoined and required to summon, call, and hold any such Special Court or Assembly, at such other Time as the same Thirteen Guardians shall then require; and on the Neglect or Refusal of such Deputy-governor, and of such Deputy-governors, then Thirteen of the said Guardians shall, and hereby have Power under their Hands to summon, assemble, and hold any such Court or Assembly, at such Time, within Seven Days next following such Refusal or Neglect of the said Deputy-governor or Deputy-governors,

a General monthly Board;

and Extraordinary Courts may be called also.

hors, as they shall appoint; at all which said last-mentioned Courts or Assemblies after such Summons, all and every the Member and Members of the said Corporation for the Time being are hereby enjoined to appear and be present: And that the said Governor, or, in case of his Absence or Refusal, any One Deputy governor; and in case of all their Absence or Refusal, any Two Justices of the said City shall, and hereby have Power, when and so often as he and they shall think proper, by Summons under his or their Hands, to require all or any of the said Guardians to appear and attend any of the said weekly, monthly, or other Courts or Assemblies; and that all and every the Members of the said Corporation, who shall appear and be present at any of the said Courts (whether by any Summons or not) shall not depart from the same without the Permission of the major Part of the same Court or Assembly; and in case any of such Members, after he or they shall have been summoned to attend any of the several Courts as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to appear and attend accordingly, or any of the said Members so appearing at any of the said Courts, whether by such Summons or not, shall quit the said Court without such Permission thereof as aforesaid, every such Member shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay such reasonable Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding Five Shillings, nor under Two Shillings, to the Use of the said Corporation, as by the same Court or Assembly, or any succeeding Court or Assembly shall be ordered and directed, unless each such Person having so offended shall shew some just and reasonable Excuse, to be allowed of by any such Court or Assembly: And the said Governor, or in his Absence, or on his Refusal, any Deputy-governor, at or before the holding of any the said Courts, and for Want of any such Governor or Deputy-governor, or on his or their Refusal, the major Part of the said Guardians being assembled to such Number, and composing any of the said Courts as aforesaid, shall have, and are hereby severally impowered, by Summons under his or their Hands respectively, to require any Person or Persons whatsoever within the said City to appear before any such Court, then and there to answer on Oath (which Oath any of the Members at any such Court have hereby Power to administer) any Matters or Things relating to the said Corporation; and every such Person so summoned, is hereby required to appear and answer accordingly, on Pain of each such Person offending forfeiting and paying for each Offence to the Use of the said Corporation, such Sum as the same, or any future Court shall order, not exceeding Five Shillings, nor

To depart without Leave, Forfeiture not under 2 s.

under Two Shillings; unless such Person shall, at the same or next following Court, shew good Cause to such Court, and to be there allowed of to the Contrary.

President

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at all such weekly, monthly, or other Courts, the Governor, if present, or, in his Absence, any One Deputy-governor present, who shall be then named by the Majority of Guardians present at such Court, if more Deputy-governors than One shall attend; or for want of the Governor, or any of the Deputy-governors being present at any such Court, then any One of the Guardians who shall be appointed by the Majority of the Guardians present at any such Court, shall preside at each such Court, and take the Chair as President of such Court: And in case of an Equality of Voices on any Transaction at any such Court, including the Voice of the President, the President, or the Person so presiding, shall have another and the casting Voice.

has a casting Voice.

Guardians may purchase Ground, &c. for House of Industry.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians shall, and hereby have full Power and Authority, at or by the Order of any the said Monthly or other Special Courts or Assemblies, to contract and agree for and by, and out of the Money to be raised as hereafter mentioned, to purchase or hire for any Term of Years, or to purchase for ever, any House or Houses, and to fit up and repair the same; or to purchase any Ground, and to erect and build thereon any House or Houses, Building or Buildings whatsoever, within the said City of Oxford, or Suburbs thereof, as and for a Workhouse, or House of Industry; and to assign and fix on any Building, Room, or Apartment, for a Place of Correction: And it shall be lawful for all Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Guardians, Trustees, and Committees, not only for and on Behalf of themselves, their Heirs and Successors, but also for and on Behalf of their Infant Wards, Cestuique Trusts, Lunaticks, Ideots, or Persons of unsound Memory and Understanding; and to and for all Femes-covert, who are or shall be seised or interested in their own Right; and to and for all and every Person and Persons whomsoever, who are or shall be possessed of or interested in any such House or Houses, Land or Ground; to contract with the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, for the Letting or Sale of such House or Houses, Land or Ground, for the Purposes aforesaid: And all Contracts, Lettings, Sales, and Conveyances, which shall be so made, shall be valid, to all Intents and Purposes;

Corporations may sell or lett.

poſes; any Law, Statute, Uſage, or other Matter whatſoever to the Contrary notwithſtanding: And all ſuch Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Guardians, Truſtees, Committees, and all other Perſons, ſhall be, and are hereby indemnified for what they ſhall do by virtue of this Act.

If Parties do not agree,

And be it further enacted, That if any ſuch Corporation or Perſon, upon Notice to him, her, or them given, or left in Writing at the Dwelling-houſe or Place of Abode of ſuch Perſon, or of the Head Officer of ſuch Corporation, or at the Houſe of the Tenant in Poſſeſſion of the Houſes, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments aforeſaid, ſhall, by the Space of Thirty Days after ſuch Notice given or left as aforeſaid, neglect or refuſe to treat, or ſhall not agree in the Premiſes, or by reaſon of Abſence ſhall be prevented from treating; then, and in every or any ſuch Caſe, the ſaid Guardians, or any Five or more of them, ſhall cauſe to be inquired into, aſcertained, and aſſeſſed (by and upon the Oaths of a Jury of Twelve indifferent Men of the City of Oxford, or Suburbs thereof, which Oath any Five or more of the Guardians are hereby impowered to adminiſter) what Damages will be ſuſtained by, and what Recompence ſhall be made to ſuch Owners, Proprietors, Occupiers, or other Perſons intereſted therein; and, in order thereto, the ſaid Guardians, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered, from Time to Time, as Occaſion ſhall be, to ſummon before the ſaid Jury, and examine upon Oath, any Perſon whomſoever as a Witneſs concerning the Premiſes (which Oath any Five or more of the ſaid Guardians are hereby impowered to adminiſter): And they ſhall alſo order and cauſe the ſaid Jury to view the ſaid Places in queſtion if there be Occaſion, and uſe all lawful Ways and Means, as well for their own as for the ſaid Jury's Information in the Premiſes, as they the ſaid Guardians, or any Five or more of them, ſhall think fit; and after the ſaid Jury ſhall have enquired of, aſcertained, and aſſeſſed ſuch Damage and Recompence, they the ſaid Guardians, or any Five or more of them, ſhall thereupon order, adjudge, and determine the ſaid Sum or Sums of Money, ſo aſſeſſed by the ſaid Jury, to be paid to the ſaid Owners, Proprietors, or Occupiers of, or other Perſons intereſted in the ſaid Houſes, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments, according to ſuch Verdict or Inquiſition of the ſaid Jury; which ſaid Verdict or Inquiſition, and Judgement, Order, or Determination, ſo had or made, ſhall be final, binding, and concluſive, to all Intents and Purpoſes, againſt all

Guardians to ſummon a Jury,

whoſe Verdict ſhall be final.

Parties and Persons whatsoever, claiming in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or otherwise, their Heirs and Successors, as well absent as present, Infants, Femes-covert, Ideots, Lunaticks, Cestuique Trusts, and Persons under any other Disability whatsoever, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Ecclesiastical, Civil, or Eleemosynary, as well as all other Person or Persons whomsoever; and all and every such Owners, Proprietors, and Occupiers, and all and every Person and Persons interested in such Houses, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments, shall, upon Payment or Tender of the Sum or Sums of Money so assessed as aforesaid, be thereby and from thencefoorth, to all Intents and Purposes, divested of all Right, Title, Claim, Interest, and Property of, in, to, or out of the same: And for the summoning and returning such Jury or Juries, the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered to issue out their Warrant to the Bailiffs of the City of Oxford, thereby commanding them to impannel, summon, and return, Twenty-four indifferent Persons to appear before the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, at such Time and Place as in such Warrant shall be appointed; and the said Bailiffs, their Deputy or Deputies, is and are hereby required to impannel, summon, and return, such Number accordingly; and out of the Persons so impannelled, summoned, and returned, or out of such of them as shall appear upon such Summons, the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall swear, or cause to be sworn, Twelve, to be drawn by Ballot out of the said Twenty-four; and in Default of a sufficient Number of Persons so impannelled, the said Bailiffs, or their Deputy or Deputies, shall return other honest and indifferent Men of the Standers-by, or that can speedily be procured to attend that Service, who shall be sworn in like Manner, till the Number of Twelve be compleated; which Twelve shall be the Jury for the Purposes aforesaid; and all Persons concerned shall have their lawful Challenges against any of the said Jurymen when they come to be sworn; and the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall have full Power, from Time to Time, to impose any reasonable Fine or Fines on such Bailiffs, or their Deputy or Deputies, or Agents, making Default in the Premises; and on any of the Persons who shall be summoned and returned on such Jury, and shall not appear, or who shall refuse to be sworn on the said Jury, or, being so sworn, shall refuse to give or not give their Verdict, or in any other Manner wilfully neglect their Duty therein, contrary

Penalty on Jurymen, &c. neglecting their Duty.

trary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; and on any of the Persons who being required to give Evidence before the said Jury touching the Premises, shall refuse or neglect to appear, or appearing, shall refuse to be sworn, and give Evidence; and from Time to Time to recover, levy, and apply, such Fine or Fines in the same Manner as any other Forfeiture or Penalty is by this Act directed to be recovered, levied, and applied, so as that no such Fine shall exceed the Sum of Ten Pounds upon any One Person for One Offence.

Expences of Jury how to be paid.

And be it further enacted, That in case any such Jury shall give in, and deliver a Verdict or Assessment for more Monies, as a Recompence for the Right, Interest, or Property of any Person or Persons, in any such Houses, Buildings, Lands, or Hereditaments, or for any such Loss or Damage than what shall have been agreed to and offered by the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, before the summoning or returning the said Jury, as a Recompence or Satisfaction for any such Right, Interest, or Property, or Loss or Damage as aforesaid; that then, and in such Case, the Costs and Expences of summoning and maintaining the said Jury and Witnesses shall be borne and paid by the said Guardians, out of the Rates or Assessments hereby granted, or out of any Money to be borrowed upon the Credit thereof; but if any such Jury shall give and deliver a Verdict or Assessment, for no more, or for less Monies than shall have been agreed to, and offered by the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, before the summoning and returning the said Jury, as a Recompence or Satisfaction for any such Right, Interest, or Property in, or Loss or Damage as aforesaid; that then the Costs and Expences of summoning and maintaining the said Jury and Witnesses shall be borne and paid by the Person or Persons with whom the said Guardians shall have such Controversy or Dispute; which Costs shall and may be deducted and retained by the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, out of the Monies so assessed by the said Jury, as the Value of the said Premises.

Guardians may purchase Stock and Materials,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, at or by the Order of any of the same Courts, or at or by the Order of any of the said weekly Courts, to purchase and provide such Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Provisions, Cloathing, Utensils, and Materials whatsoever, by and out of the Money to be raised as hereafter mentioned, as shall by any of such respective Courts be thought proper for the effectual setting

ting to Work, receiving, employing, maintaining, and cloathing of the Poor, under the Care and Power of the said Guardians, of what Sex, Age, or Condition soever they be: And that the said Guardians shall have, and are hereby empowered to have the Care and Power over, and shall provide for the Maintenance and Employ, and other Management, according to this Act, of all the Poor of the several Parishes and Places in the said City of Oxford, wanting, or seeking Relief; and of such other Poor who shall be taken and received into the said House of Industry, or under the Care of the said Guardians, pursuant to any Power hereby given (except such Poor of the said several Parishes who shall be otherwise sufficiently provided for by the charitable Gifts of others, or in private Hospitals or Almshouses within the said City): And the said Corporation shall, and hereby have Power and Authority to receive, and to order and compel all and every idle and disorderly Person, who, by reason of their idle and disorderly living, shall neglect or refuse to maintain, or shall leave, or threaten to leave and desert their Families, not being afterwards able to maintain themselves; and also all other People who shall beg, seek, or want Relief for the Time being, and who shall belong to, and ought, according to this Act, or by any Law in Force, to be relieved and provided for by any of the said several Parishes or Places within the said City of Oxford, to come into, work, dwell, and inhabit in the said House of Industry, hereby vested in, or any other such House as shall belong to the said Corporation for the Time being, by virtue of this Act; and to detain, keep, maintain, and employ, all such respective poor Persons therein, so long as it shall not appear to the said Guardians on the Part of any such poor Persons, that any of them respectively are of Ability, or can otherwise be sufficiently maintained and provided for without the Aid and Provision of the said Corporation; and to employ, set, and compel all such Poor who shall be so received, or come in to dwell, and be in the said House of Industry during such their Abode and Residence there, and whilst maintained by the said Corporation as aforesaid, to do, execute, and perform such Work, Labour, Business, and Employ, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall think and judge such respective Poor are and shall be able and fit to do and perform for the Use of the said Corporation, and to detain and keep all such idle and disorderly Persons who shall have so deserted, threatened to leave, neglected, or refused to maintain his

and provide for the Poor.

Disorderly Persons may be compelled to be set to work in the House of Industry.

his or their Families, and to set each of them to work in such House of Industry during such Time, and until each such Person, by his or her Work and Labour there, shall have got and raised so much Money above their Maintenance as shall be sufficient to repay and reimburse to the said Corporation, the Charges and Expences they shall have sustained in the maintaining and providing for every such idle or disorderly Person, and his or her Family: And in case any such idle or disorderly Person shall not, by his or her Work and Labour, be able to get so much Money as shall be sufficient to reimburse the said Corporation the Charges and Expences of having maintained him or her, or any of his or her Family as aforesaid; then, and so often as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall, and they hereby have Power to detain and keep such idle and disorderly Person within their House of Correction, to such hard Labour as he or she can undergo, for the Space of Thirty Days, and there to cause him or her to be whipped during such Thirty Days, so often, not exceeding Three Times, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall think proper.

Guardians, &c. not to be concerned in Contracts, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person shall be capable of acting as a Governor, Guardian, Treasurer, or other Officer, under this Act, during such Time as he shall be concerned in any beneficial Contract made by virtue of this Act; nor shall any Governor, Deputy-governor, Guardian, Treasurer, or other Officer, under this Act, provide, furnish, or supply, for his own Profit, any Goods, Materials, or Provisions, for the Use of the said House of Industry, or otherwise, on account of the Poor to be provided for under this Act.

Poor may be searched for,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That for the better providing for, and discovering all such Poor in and belonging to the said several Parishes, it shall be lawful for the said Guardians, or any Person or Persons to be appointed by them, at any of their said Courts, taking a Constable of the said City, or of the Parish where the Search is intended to be made, to enter any House or other Building in the said City where any such Poor shall dwell, or be known to lodge or be, and to examine, search, and see what of such poor Persons there are come into, inhabiting, or residing within any of the said several Parishes within the said City of Oxford, who shall want, have begged, or shall seek Relief, and ought to be relieved by any of the said several Parishes for the Time being; and upon any

of such poor Person or Persons refusing, on such Examination, to come into the said House of Industry, and to accept and conform to the Provision and Rules of the said Corporation; then, by Order of any of the said Courts, or by such Ways and Means as the said Guardians in any Court shall judge most reasonable and proper, to remove and convey, and cause to be removed and conveyed, every such poor Person so refusing, into the said House of Industry, to be there employed and maintained pursuant to the Powers hereby given: And also, that the said Guardians shall, and hereby have Power and Authority, by Order of any of their said Courts, or by such other Means as to them in any Court shall appear most proper, to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, all Rogues, Beggars, Vagrants, or idle or disorderly Persons, coming, or being, or wandering, or begging within the said City, or the Liberties thereof, and not having any lawful Employment, or reasonable Means of getting his or her Livelihood; and to cause every such Person to be brought into, and to be set and kept at Work in the said House of Industry, or otherwise to be employed under the Direction, and for the Use of the said Corporation, and subject to such corporal, or other Punishment, as the other Poor therein are hereby made subject to for Misbehaviour or otherwise, according to the Government of such Corporation; or to be kept to hard Labour and whipped in the Place of Correction belonging to the said Corporation, as the Law directs in the Case of Vagrants, as the said Guardians in any Court shall direct; and so to detain every such apprehended Person, for any Time not less than Thirty Days together, nor longer than One Year together, in the Judgement of the said Guardians, and then to be dismissed at some outer Gate of the said City, as the Guardians shall direct; during all which Time, every such apprehended Person shall be reasonably maintained and provided for by the said Guardians, at the Costs of the said Corporation; and that all such Costs above the Profit to arise from each such Person's Work and Labour, which shall be set against the same rateably, according to the Charge per Head of all the other Poor provided for by the said Corporation for the Time being, shall be paid for by all the said several Parishes in the said City.

and removed into the House,

and be punished for Misbehaviour.

Poor Children may be bound Apprentices.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all poor Children, who at any Time shall be maintained by the said Guardians, shall be and remain under their Government till they arrive at the

Age of Fourteen Years; and that after such Children shall attain the Age of Fourteen Years respectively, or sooner, if the said Guardians think fit, the said Guardians shall, and hereby have Power, at any Monthly or Special Court, by Writing, under their Common Seal, without Stamp, to bind and put forth any of such Children Apprentices to any reputable Person in England, or to any Two of the said Guardians, as Trustees, for the Benefit of, and to be employed under the said Corporation, to learn, and to be employed in any Art, Trade, Mystery, or Occupation, or in any Handicraft Business or Manufacture, or in the Sea Service, as the Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall think most fit and proper; such Boy to be so bound for any Term not exceeding his Age of Twenty-two Years, and such Girl for any Term not exceeding Eighteen Years; and that every such Writing, (where the Apprentice shall not be bound to such Two Guardians) shall be mutually binding as an Indenture between the Master, Mistress, and Apprentice; and the Apprentice shall gain, and be entitled to gain a Settlement, and if to a Freeman, be intitled to his Freedom under the same, and shall, in all Respects, be enforced according to the Laws in Force concerning the Binding out of poor Children Apprentices, whose Parents are not able to provide for them; and that the said Guardians shall, and hereby have full Power to maintain and provide for every such Apprentice, and hereby have full Power and Property over any such Apprentice who shall be so bound to any such Two Guardians as their lawful Apprentice, whose Work and Labour shall go and be to the Use of the said Corporation, and the Benefit of the said several Parishes; and in case he, she, or they shall desert, or not duly perform such Service and Apprenticeship, the said Guardians shall, and hereby have Power, by Warrant under the Seal of the said Corporation, to apprehend each such Apprentice in any City, County, or Place in Great Britain, where he, she, or they shall or may be found, and thereupon every such Apprentice shall be brought back to the said House of Industry, in order to fulfil the same Apprenticeship; and the said Guardians may, and hereby have full Power to confine and inflict such moderate Punishment on him, her, or them, for any such Misdemeanor, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall think most suitable to the Case.

And

Power to assign Apprentices.

And the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, may, and hereby have Power to assign or turn over any such Apprentice, or wholly to release or discharge him or her from such Apprenticeship, by any Writing under their Common Seal, as they shall in any Court think fit to order and direct; and also that the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall and hereby have Power to discharge out of the said House, or to hire out, either before, or as soon as may be after such Age of Fourteen Years, any of the said poor Children of the said several Parishes or Places, to be Servants in Husbandry, Housewifery, or otherwise, for One whole Year at the least, for such Child's own Benefit; and also before such Age to hire out any of such poor Children, and also any of the other Poor within the said House, to work and labour in the Time of Hay and Corn Harvest, or at any other Time, for the Benefit of the said Corporation, with any Farmer, Tradesman, or Person, under such Payment by such Farmer, Tradesman, or Person, to such Corporation, and for such Term and Time as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall appoint; all of which poor Persons so hired out, shall do and perform the Work and Labour to be contracted for by the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, to the best of each of their Power; and after the Expiration of such Contract, shall immediately return, with his, her, or their Apparel, with which he, she, or they so went out to work, Allowance being made for the necessary Wear of such Apparel, to the said House of Industry; or in Default thereof, shall and may be apprehended, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of Two of the Justices of the said City, in any County or Place whatsoever, and conveyed back to the said House, there to be employed and provided for as aforesaid; and on every such Person being so apprehended and brought back, the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, may, and hereby have Power to inflict such reasonable Punishment, and of such Sort, on each Person apprehended, as they at any Court shall direct; and that in each and every Case or Occurrence whatsoever, wherein any of the Poor, under the Care and Management of the said Guardians, shall not work and labour, and obey and perform the Powers hereby given, and the Rules and Ordinances of the said Corporation, from Time to Time, the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall, and hereby have Authority at any Court, to order such poor Person or Persons so misbehaving to be whipped in the House of Correction, and to do such Task-work, or

Poor may be let out to Harvest Work, &c.

and punished if they do not return with Apparel, &c.

Punishment for Misbehaviour.

to

to inflict such Confinement, or other reasonable Punishment on him, her, or them, so misbehaving, as any such Court shall think fit and reasonable.

Contracts to be entered in Books.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians shall cause all Contracts made for the Purchase or Hire of any House or Houses, or with or by the Artificers and Workmen or others employed, or to be employed in or about the said House of Industry, and all Receipts, Payments, Debts, and Credits, and any Matter or Thing relating thereto, and all other their Proceedings concerning the same, to be fairly written and entered in a Book or Books, to be provided for that Purpose.

Money to be raised by granting Annuities.

And in order to raise a proper Fund to enable Guardians to carry into Execution the several Trusts hereby in them reposed, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons to contribute, advance, and pay into the Hands of the said Treasurer or Treasurers so to be annually appointed as aforesaid, any Sum or Sums of Money not exceeding in the Whole the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of One or more Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the full Term of the natural Life of every such Contributor respectively, or the natural Life of such other Person as shall be nominated by or on the Behalf of such respective Contributor, at the Time of Payment of his or her respective Contribution Money; which Annuity or Annuities shall not exceed the Rate of Nine Pounds per Annum for every One hundred Pounds, and so in proportion for any greater or less Sum, to be advanced and paid as aforesaid; and shall be payable and paid by the said Treasurer or Treasurers as herein after directed, in the said Council Chamber, or in such Place in the said City as he or they shall, for that Purpose, appoint, by Four equal quarterly Payments in the Year; the first of such Payments to begin and be made to the respective Purchasers, and their Assigns, at the Expiration of the first Three Calendar Months next after Payment of his or her respective Purchase Money; which Annuities shall be publickly sold by the said Guardians of the said Poor, in the said Council Chamber, or some other publick Place, to the best Bidder for the same, on Twenty-one Days Notice thereof being first given in the London Gazette, or other publick News-paper, and a like Notice affixed upon the Town Hall, and such other publick Places as shall be thought proper, signifying such Intention.

Treasurer to pay the Annuities.

And, for the better ascertaining and regulating the Payment of the said Annuities, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, shall, by Warrants under their Hands and Seals (directed to such Person or Persons as shall be chosen and appointed Treasurer and Treasurers, in manner herein before mentioned) order and direct, from Time to Time, the several quarterly Payments of the said Annuities to the respective Proprietors, as the same shall become due; which said Treasurer or Treasurers is and are hereby required, upon Receipt of such Warrant or Warrants, forthwith to pay the same out of the first Monies which shall be in his or their Hands, in pursuance of this Act, and arising by the respective Rates on the several Parishes; which Warrants shall be allowed in account to him or them, on making up his or their Accounts with the Guardians, as herein after mentioned.

Annuitants Names to be entered in Books.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That there shall be provided by the said Guardians, and kept in the House of Industry, or in such Place in the said City, as they the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them shall appoint, a Book or Books, in which shall be fairly written, in Words at length, the Names and Surnames, with the proper Additions and Places of Abode, of all such Persons who shall be Purchasers of any of the Annuities aforesaid; and of all Persons by whose Hands the said Purchasers shall pay in any Sum or Sums of Money upon the Credit of this Act; and also the Sum and Sums so paid for the Purchase of such Annuity or Annuities, and the respective Days of Payment thereof; and also an Account of the Interest that shall be paid to the said Annuitant or Annuitants, from Time to Time, and by whom received; to which Book and Books it shall be lawful for the said respective Purchasers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, Agent or Agents, and to and for any Person or Persons who shall be liable to pay any Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act, from Time to Time, and at all seasonable Times, to have Recourse to, and inspect the same, without Fee or Reward.

Annuities charged upon the Rates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Annuities so to be purchased, under and by virtue of this Act, shall be and are hereby charged upon, and shall be paid and payable from Time to Time, out of the Monies arising by the respective Rates on the several Parishes, made by virtue of this Act; and all and every the Contributor and Contributors upon the Credit of this Act, duly paying the Consideration

ſideration or Purchaſe Money for any ſuch Annuities as aforeſaid, or ſuch Perſon or Perſons as he, ſhe, or they, ſhall appoint, his, her, or their reſpective Aſſigns, ſhall have, receive, and enjoy, and be intitled, by virtue of this Act, to have, receive, and enjoy, the ſaid reſpective Annuity or Annuities, during the Term of the natural Life of the Perſon to be nominated by each ſuch Purchaſer or Contributor as above mentioned; and that all and every ſuch Purchaſer and Purchaſers, and their Aſſigns reſpectively, ſhall have good, ſure, abſolute, indefeaſible perſonal Eſtates and Intereſts in the Annuities ſo by them reſpectively purchaſed, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act: And that none of the ſaid Annuities ſhall be ſubject and liable to the Tax charged upon Lands by Authority of Parliament, or to any other Parliamentary or Parochial Tax whatſoever.

Contributors to have Receipts for their Money.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Contributor upon this Act, for the Purchaſe of any ſuch Annuity or Annuities as aforeſaid, his, her, or their Aſſigns, upon Payment of the Conſideration or Purchaſe Money for the ſame, or any Part or Proportion thereof, ſhall have One or more Receipt or Receipts from the Perſon or Perſons receiving the ſame, importing the Receipt of ſo much Purchaſe-money as ſhall be ſo paid; and upon Payment of the Remainder of ſuch Purchaſe-money, if any, every ſuch Contributor, his or her Aſſigns reſpectively, ſhall have an Order on Parchment or Vellum, for Payment of the ſaid Annuity or Annuities, for and during the Life of ſuch Perſon as ſhall be nominated by ſuch Contributor or Purchaſer as aforeſaid; which Order ſhall be ſigned by the Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, at any Meeting aſſembled, ſuch Nine being a major Part of them aſſembled at ſuch Meeting; and after ſigning thereof, the ſame ſhall be firm, good, valid, and effectual in the Law, according to the Purport and true Meaning of this Act.

Annuities may be aſſigned.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for any Purchaſer or Purchaſers of any ſuch Annuity or Annuities as aforeſaid, and his, her, and their Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns, at any Time or Times, by Writing under his, her, or their Hands and Seals, without any Stamp thereon, to aſſign ſuch Annuity or Annuities, or any Part thereof, or Intereſt therein, to any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, and ſo toties quoties; and a Memorandum or Entry of all ſuch Aſſignments, and of the reſpective Days the ſame were brought to be ſo entered, ſhall be made in a Book, which

is hereby required to be kept for that Purpose, at the Charge of the said Guardians, in the House of Industry, or in the Council Chamber belonging to the said City, or in such Room or Place as shall be appointed in the said City for that Purpose; which Entry or Memorandum shall be made gratis, and may, at all seasonable Times, be inspected by any Person or Persons interested therein.

Proviso. Provided always, That no such Assignment shall be deemed good and effectual, until such Memorandum or Entry shall be made in the said Book, in Manner aforesaid.

Former Poor Rates to be discontinued. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said several Parishes herein before mentioned, or any of them for the Time being, from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, shall not by virtue of any Law now in being make, save as hereafter mentioned, and they and every of them are hereby disabled to make, or cause to be made, any other Rate, Assessment, or Taration whatsoever; or to rate, collect, or gather any other Sum or Sums of Money, within any of the said several Parishes, or from the Inhabitants thereof, or otherwise, for the Relief, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of, within, and belonging to the said several Parishes, other than such Rates or Taration, for the cloathing, maintaining, employing, and otherwise providing for the Poor of, and belonging to the said several Parishes, as shall and may, from Time to Time, be ordered and directed to be rated and raised by the said Corporation, pursuant to the Powers herein given, and for the Purposes herein expressed, save and except all such Rates or Sums of Money which the said Church-wardens and Overseers, or any of them, now are, or shall, by any Special Law, be obliged and directed to pay, and to raise by Taration, for the Relief and Provision of the Families of any Militia Men, or for any other particular Purposes arising within and falling to the Part of each such Parish, and particularly directed by other Acts of Parliament: And that none of the said Church-wardens or Overseers of the said several Parishes for the Time being, shall pay, expend, or apply any Money to be rated, collected, and raised in the said several Parishes by them, or any of them, pursuant to any of the Powers hereby given to, or for the Relief of any of the Poor of, or in any of the said several Parishes, or to or for any other Use or Purpose,

Except as excepted.

or

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or to any Person or Persons, other than such as is and are herein after appointed, or shall be directed, pursuant to the Powers herein contained, save and except so much and such Part of any such Money to be so collected, and when remaining in the Hands of the Person impowered and having collected the same, as any Five of the said Guardians, not being Churchwarden or Overseer for the Time being, by Writing under their Hands, intervening the Time of holding any of the said Courts: And, in case of Necessity, or so much of such Monies as any of the said Courts, which they are hereby severally impowered to do, shall order to be paid by any such collecting Churchwarden or Overseer, or other collecting Officer for the Time being, to be impowered, by virtue of this Act, in and for the Relief and Support of any Person not able to support him or herself, and incapable of being moved into the said House of Industry, who by Accident, Sickness, or otherwise, shall fall, and be casually in Want in any such Parish, or for the Burial of any poor Person dying therein, or in the removing of any Pauper to his or her Place of Settlement, or in trying the Right of any Pauper's Settlement, or for any other such urgent and necessitous Case: And in the Cases of all such directed Payments, the said Churchwardens and Overseers of the said several Parishes, or other Person collecting and paying the same, shall keep a separate Account of all the Money to be by them respectively expended and laid out for any the aforesaid excepted and special Purposes; and shall, from Time to Time, deduct the same out of the Money they shall be respectively required to rate, collect, and raise in each Parish, under the Directions of this Act; and upon his or their paying the Overplus of the Money so directed to be raised, to the Treasurer, or such other Person, for the Use of the said Corporation, as is herein after directed and appointed, he or they shall at the same Time deliver in to such Treasurer, or other Person, a fair Copy of every Rate to be so made, and of all the Money to be so collected, and of all Payments for any of the said excepted or special Purposes, at the Time herein appointed for the Return of every such Rate and Payment of all Money to be collected by virtue of the Powers hereby given; to the Intent that every such Churchwarden or Overseer, or other such collecting Officer of every such Rate, shall, on every such Payment, balance his Accounts and Collections, and have no further Account open or depending with the said

Poor Persons not capable of being removed into the House of Industry, to be relieved.

Collectors to keep separate Accounts of Money expended.

said Corporation, or relative to the Poor under their Care.

Furniture, &c. vested in the Corporation.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Property of all and every the Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Furniture, Provisions, Cloaths, Linen, and Wearing Apparel, Tools, Utensils, and Materials whatsoever, to be from Time to Time had, bought, used, procured, and in the Possession, Use, and Employ of the said Corporation, for the Time being; and also all Debts due to the Corporation for the Poors Work, or otherwise, shall be, and are hereby absolutely vested in the said Guardians, for the Use of the said Corporation, who are hereby authorised and impowered by their said Name of Incorporation, to bring Actions for the Recovery thereof, and also to make any Accusation before any Justice of the Peace, who shall thereupon cause any such Person accused to be apprehended as a Felon; and also to prosecute Indictments, as in the Case of, and which is hereby declared to be, Felony, against any Person or Persons, and also against any of the said Poor, provided for and under the Care of the said Guardians, who shall steal, take, carry away, sell, imbezzle, pawn, pledge, or wilfully destroy or spoil any such the aforesaid Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Furniture, Provisions, Cloaths, Linen, Wearing Apparel, Tools, Utensils, and Materials whatsoever: And as to any of the said Poor, who shall be found guilty of any such Offences in the Judgement of the said Guardians, in any of their said Courts, it shall be lawful for the said Guardians then and there to order such Confinement and corporal Punishment of any such Offender, in the House of Correction, instead of any Prosecution for Felony as aforesaid, as they shall think proper: And in case he or she shall have absconded, by Warrant under Seal of the said Corporation, to cause such Person to be apprehended in any City, County, or Place, and to be conveyed to such House of Industry, there to be confined and punished, as aforesaid: And in case any Person or Persons shall knowingly buy or receive, or cause to be bought or received, or shall otherwise take into his, her, or their Custody or Power, any such of the aforesaid Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Furniture, Provisions, Cloaths, Linen, Wearing Apparel, Tools, Utensils, and Materials whatsoever, before named, from or by Means or Contrivance of any of the Poor under the Care and Management of the said Guardians, or from any other Person or Persons, without the Privity and Consent of the said Guardians in some of their said Courts,

Persons embezzling to be punished.

Receiver to forfeit 5*l.* and the Value of the Goods.

Courts; and in case any Person or Persons shall knowingly receive, entertain, keep, or conceal, any of the said Poor under the Care of the said Guardians, who shall have absconded, eloped, or deserted from the said House of Industry, without the Privity and Consent of the said Guardians, every such Person or Persons so offending, and being convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, on his or her own Confession in Writing, or upon the Oath of any One Witness, or upon the Oath of any such poor Person having so sold, pawned, or delivered any of such Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Apparel, or Materials aforesaid, or having so eloped as aforesaid, before any One Justice of the Peace of the said City, or of the Place where the Offender shall dwell, which Oath any such Justice hath hereby Power to administer, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds, over and besides the Value of the Goods, Cattle, Chattels, Apparel, or Materials so bought, received, or taken into his, her, or their Custody, to be estimated at the Price the same were originally bought when new, for the Use of the said Corporation; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the proper Goods, Cattle, and Chattels of every such Offender or Offenders, together with the Charges of such Distress and Sale, by Warrant for that Purpose to be forthwith granted under the Hand and Seal of such Justice before whom any such Conviction shall be; and, for Want of such sufficient Distress, it shall be lawful for the same, or any other Justice having Jurisdiction, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to apprehend any such Offender or Offenders, and to commit him, her, or them, to the Common Gaol of the City or County where such Person shall be apprehended, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until Payment of each such Penalty, with the Charges of Recovery thereof, and of the Pursuit and Commitment of such Offender, to be fixed and ascertained by such Justice, or until such Person shall have compounded for the same, and paid such Composition; which Composition the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, are hereby impowered to make; and each or any of such Convictions, and also all and every other Convictions for any Penalties whatsoever, in pursuance of this Act, and relating to the said Corporation in any wise, shall be drawn up in the following Manner, or in Words to the same Effect, and shall not be quashed or vacated, or any Advantage taken thereof, for want of Form.

BE

Form of Conviction.

City [or] County of } BE it remembered, That on the Day of in the Year of His Majesty's Reign, is (*or are*) convicted before in the Sum of for

[*Specifying the Offence and Facts as the Case shall be.*]

Given under Hand and Seal, (*or Hands and Seals*) the Day and Year aforesaid.

Guardians to appoint Masters, Matrons, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall, and hereby have Power and Authority, in any of their said Courts or Assemblies, to nominate, appoint, and employ, from Time to Time, such Person and Persons, as they shall think proper to be and officiate as Clerk, Assistant, Master, Matron, Beadle, or Porter, or in any other Office or Place which shall be thought needful by the said Guardians, and, from Time to Time, to remove and displace such Person or Persons as they shall find Cause; and upon the Death or Removal of them, or any of them, to chuse others in their Place, and to make, pay, and allow out of the Stock of the said Corporation, and the Rates to be raised as herein after mentioned, such reasonable Salary or Allowance to any such Clerk, or other Officer or Person, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall think fit.

Treasurer to give Security,

and account.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the Treasurer and Treasurers of the said Corporation for the Time being, before he or they shall respectively act in such Office or Place, shall give Bond, in a sufficient Penalty, with Sureties, duly to pay and account with the said Corporation, and to act in any such Office according to the Tenor of the Trust, pursuant to this Act; and the said Treasurer or Treasurers, for the Time being, and also the Clerk, and every other Officer or Person, who shall belong to the said Corporation or House of Industry, shall, from Time to Time, account before such Person or Persons, or before the said Auditor or Auditors, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall for such Purposes appoint, for all such Sums of Money, Stock, Goods, and other Things whatsoever, belonging to the said Corporation, or the said House of Industry, which shall come to their respective Hands, or be under their respective Care,

upon

upon every reasonable Warning or Notice thereof, not being less than Three Days exclusive, to be to them respectively given, or left at his or their Place of Abode, by the Order of the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them; and in case any such Treasurer, or other Officer or Person, shall neglect or refuse to account as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any One Justice of the Peace in and for the said City of Oxford, on Proof thereof made to him on the Oath of any One Person, under the Direction of the said Corporation, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to cause any such Treasurer, or other Officer or Person, to be apprehended in the said City, and to commit him or them to the Common Gaol of the said City, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall conform and account as before directed: And if any such Treasurer, or other Officer or Person, so neglecting or refusing to account, shall go, or be out of the Jurisdiction of the said City, so that such the aforesaid Warrant against him cannot be executed, it shall be lawful for any One Justice, in any other County or Place where it shall be suspected such Treasurer or other Officer shall be, to indorse his Name on any such Warrant, which shall be full Power to any Constable, or other Person having such Warrant, to execute the same in any such County or Place, of which such Justice so indorsing the same hath Jurisdiction; to the Intent, that from and after any such Offender shall be taken, he shall be conveyed before any One Justice of the said City of Oxford, to be by him committed for such Offence as aforesaid: And if upon any Account made with the said Corporation by any Treasurer, or other Officer or Person, there shall appear and be any Money, Goods, or other Effects, in his or their Hands, due and belonging to the said Corporation, he and they shall pay and deliver over the same to such Person or Persons, and at such Time, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall direct, or shall give such Security for the same, as the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, shall approve of; and in Default of such Payment, or giving such Security, according to such Direction or Approbation, every such Treasurer, or other Officer or Person, shall immediately thereupon forfeit and pay to the said Guardians double the Value of such Money, Goods, or other Effects, so being in his or their Hands; to be recovered by the said Guardians by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain,

tain, in which no Protection, Essoin, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed: And in the Case of every such Forfeiture, upon Affidavit made thereof by any Person on Behalf of the said Guardians, it shall be lawful for the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, by virtue of some proper Writ or Plaint out of any such Court of Record in Great Britain, to arrest any such Treasurer, or other Officer or Person so offending, in order to hold him or them to Bail in the said Action, for the Recovery of any such Penalty.

Guardians not to have Power over particular Charities.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, shall not in any-wise extend to give the said Guardians any Power or Authority over any Alms-house or Hospital, or any other charitable Building, or other special Donation whatsoever, within the said City, already or hereafter to be given, settled, or erected, nor to give any Power or Authority over any of the Poor dwelling therein, or having the Benefit of any such private Donations or Charities for the Time being; any Thing herein contained to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Sums necessary for the Maintenance of the Poor, how to be apportioned.

And whereas the keeping separate Accounts of the Poor, and apportioning the Sums necessary for their Support and Employment in each respective Parish, would be attended with great Trouble and Perplexity; and that incorporating the said Poor of the several and respective Parishes herein before mentioned into one Family would remedy the said Inconveniencies; be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, or as soon after as a House can be provided for the Reception of the said Poor, the several and respective Sums necessary to be raised for their Maintenance, Relief, and Employment, shall be raised by a regular Pound Rate, to be assessed without Distinction, throughout each of such respective Parishes within the City of Oxford: And that the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall and hereby have Power, at any of their Monthly or other Special Courts or Assemblies, to be for ever afterwards held from Time to Time as there shall be Occasion, and as they shall think proper, to set down and ascertain what Sum or Sums of Money shall be needful to be raised by such regular and equal Pound Rate as aforesaid, for the maintaining and employing the Poor, and for other the Uses of the said Corporation, pursuant to the Design of this Act: And

the

the Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall and hereby have Power and Authority at every or any such Monthly or Special Courts or Assemblies, as aforesaid, to issue, and, as soon as may be, to send out and to direct their Precept and Certificate, under their Common Seal, to the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of each of the said several Parishes for the Time being, expressing the Money so fixed and ascertained by each such Court to be raised as aforesaid; and thereby requiring the said Church-wardens and Overseers of each such Parish, or any One or more of them, to rate and assess, as soon as may be, and within Thirty Days, exclusive, from the Date thereof, to collect and receive, and to cause the same respective Sums to be raised and levied by Taxation, equally and in proportion, as near as may be, of and upon the several Householders and Inhabitants, and every Occupier in respect of and for, and of and upon all Lands, Houses, Tythes, Stocks, and Estates real and personal, in the said several Parishes, which by any Law now in Force are rateable and liable to pay to, and for the setting on Work and Relief of the Poor, according to the respective Worth and Values of all such Estates: And that every such Church-warden and Overseer to whom any such Precept and Certificate shall be so directed, shall obey the same in all respects; and is and are hereby required, and shall and hereby have and hath full Power and Authority, in pursuance thereof, to make every such Rate as soon as may be, not exceeding Six Days inclusive from the Receipt of every such Precept, and to collect and receive, and cause to be raised and levied within the Time aforesaid, by such Taxation as aforesaid, and by virtue of the Powers hereby given, every such Sum and Sums of Money, to be so set down and directed in and by every such Precept and Certificate; and on the Sunday next after his or their Receipt thereof, shall cause Notice to be given, immediately after divine Service, in the Parish Church of each such Parish, declaring the Sum intended to be raised; and immediately after he or they shall have so made every such Rate, the same shall be fairly entered and set down by him or them so making and levying the same, in a Book to be kept and provided by and on the Behalf of each such Parish, and shall be subscribed by each such Church-wardens and Overseers, and by him or them brought as soon as may be, to any Two Justices of the Peace in and for the said City, who shall, and are hereby impowered and required, at such Time, to subscribe and sign his or their

their Allowance of such Rate, taking only One Shilling for each such Allowance: And in case of Nonpayment of each and every such Rate, by the Person tared and rated, or by the Occupier of the Premises so tared, whether the Party shall be rated by Name or as the Occupier, or the Premises so occupied shall be only rated, the same Rate being first lawfully demanded from the Party occupying the Premises in Person, or by Notice left at the Premises by any One of such Church-wardens or Overseers, or other Person appointed by them, or any of them, it shall be lawful for any One Justice of the Peace in and for the said City, and on the respective Neglect or Refusal of any Six of such Justices, then for any Two Guardians of the said Corporation representing any other Parish, and not being Justices, upon Proof of such Nonpayment, after Demand, by the Oath of any One such Church-warden and Overseer, or other Person directed by him or them to make such Demand, or to give such Notice, within Two Days exclusive after such Demand, but not sooner, to issue his or their Warrant, under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, and who are hereby severally required to issue the same accordingly, and thereby to authorise and impower the said Church-wardens and Overseers of such Parish, or any of them, or any other Person to be named therein, to levy and raise, as soon as may be, such Money so in Arrear and unpaid, together with the Costs attending the same, to be ascertained by the Person or Persons so granting such Warrant, by Distress and Sale of the Goods, Cattle, and Chattels of every such Person or Persons so in Arrear, or not having paid any such Rate as aforesaid, restoring the Overplus of any such Distress and Sale to the Party so distrained, or leaving the same at his, her, or their Place of Abode.

If no Distress can be had, Offenders to be committed.

And in case no such sufficient Distress can be found, then any such One Justice, or after the Neglect or Refusal of so many of them as aforesaid, any such Two Guardians as aforesaid shall, and hereby have like Power, and are hereby required to issue such his or their Warrant, to apprehend and thereby to commit any such Person so not paying, and offending as aforesaid, to the common Gaol of the said City, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until such Rate or Rates, and all Costs and Charges attending such Proceedings as aforesaid, to be fixed by the Person or Persons granting such Warrant, shall be paid or compounded for; which Composition the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, are hereby impowered

powered to make: And the said Church-wardens and Overseers of each of the said several Parishes who shall be so required, and shall collect and gather any such Rates as aforesaid, shall, and are hereby ordered, from Time to Time, to pay the whole Money to be so by them respectively rated, collected, and received, when and so often as they shall receive the same, if the said Guardians shall in any Monthly or Special Court so direct; but for Want of such Direction, then within Three Days exclusive after the Expiration of the said Thirty Days, to be named in every such Precept and Certificate at the Return thereof as aforesaid, to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Corporation, or to some other Person or Persons, to be from Time to Time appointed by the said Guardians, or any Thirteen or more of them, to receive the same for the Use of the said Corporation, and to the Account of every such separate Parish from whence each such Rate shall be raised; and shall and is, and are hereby required, at the Time of making every such Payment of such Money so collected, to deliver over to the Person or Persons so impowered to receive the same, a true and exact Copy or Duplicate of each such Assessment, founding every such Payment, with an Account underwrote, of any Money therein rated and unavoidably lost through the Insolvency of the Party, or otherwise, through his or her Defect; and of any Money such Church-wardens or Overseers may have expended out of that Rate, by Order of the said Guardians or otherwise, as is herein before mentioned and excepted as to casual Purposes.

Penalty on Church-wardens, &c. neglecting their Duty.

And in case any such Church-wardens or Overseers, to whom any such Precept and Certificate, under Seal of the said Corporation, shall be directed as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to receive and obey every such Precept, and to make every such Rate, or to collect the Money thereby required to be raised by such Taration, and in all Respects before mentioned to enforce the raising thereof, and afterwards to pay over such Money when collected, and to deliver over such Copy of every such Assessment, within, at such Times, and with such Account underwrote, as is and are herein mentioned and directed; every such Church-warden and Overseer so offending in any of the Matters aforesaid, in the Judgement of the said Guardians, in any of their said Weekly, Monthly, or Special Courts, shall forfeit and pay for each such Offence the Sum of Ten Pounds, for the Use of the said Corporation; and for Want of such Payment on Demand made by Order of any such Court, the same shall

be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offender's Goods, in manner herein before mentioned, as to the Recovery of pecuniary Penalties or Forfeitures: And in caſe any ſuch Churchwardens or Overſeers ſhall, after his or their collecting any ſuch Rates, or any Part thereof, become inſolvent, or otherwiſe unable to pay over any ſuch Money ſo by him collected, or ſhall die inſolvent in the Judgement of the ſaid Corporation aſſembled in any Monthly or Special Court; then, and in every ſuch Caſe, it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Corporation in any ſuch of their ſaid Courts, after ſuch Neglect or Refuſal, or after ſuch Inſolvency or Inability, by the like Precept under their common Seal, to appoint any other or others of the Churchwardens or Overſeers, or any Two ſubſtantial Houſeholders in any ſuch Pariſh, to rate, collect, and receive, and cauſe to be raiſed and levied, ſuch Sum or Sums of Money, ſo required to be raiſed by each ſuch Pariſh in any ſuch former Precept, ſo being neglected or refuſed to be obeyed by any ſuch the Church-wardens or Overſeers of the ſame Pariſh, or ſo much thereof as any of ſuch Church-wardens or Overſeers ſhall have collected, and afterwards become unable to pay over by the Means aforeſaid, and ſhall not have paid over the ſame to the ſaid Treaſurer or other Perſon, for the Uſe of the ſaid Corporation, in like Manner, and with the ſame Effect, and with the ſame Power for the Recovery of every Rate or Taration, to be made in purſuance thereof; and which Precept ſuch Houſeholders ſhall, and hereby are ſeverally required to obey, and to execute and fulfil the Purport and Effect thereof, in all ſuch Caſes as fully and effectually in all Reſpects, and ſhall be ſubject to the like Penalty for Diſobedience in any Part, with ſuch Remedy for Recovery thereof as is and are hereby before given and directed, in caſe ſuch Precept had been originally iſſued to, and executed by, or refuſed to be obeyed and executed in the whole or in Part by any ſuch the Churchwardens or Overſeers of any of the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes: And ſo in caſe any ſuch other Church-wardens or Overſeers, or ſuch Two Houſeholders in any ſuch Pariſhes, ſhall alſo neglect or refuſe to obey any ſuch further Precept, and to make ſuch Rate, and to collect and raiſe ſuch Money as ſhall be thereby required, or ſhall after his or their collecting the ſame, or any Part thereof become inſolvent, or otherwiſe unable to pay over any ſuch Money ſo by him collected, in the Judgement of the ſaid Corporation, then and in every ſuch Caſe, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Corporation, at any ſuch like Court, to appoint any Two Guardians from among themſelves,

or

or any Two other Persons (not so before appointed) by another such like Precept, under their common Seal, to make and collect such Rate, and to raise and levy such Money, or so much thereof as shall be so wanting to be raised by and out of any such Parish, in such Manner, and with such Powers as is and are before mentioned, had such Precept been originally executed in all Respects by any the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the same Parish, having been first so appointed as aforesaid, and subject to the like Penalty for Disobedience, or defective Execution thereof, by such Guardians, or either of them, in every Instance, as is before appointed, as to every first or original Precept.

Persons embezzling Money collected.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any of the Persons who shall be so appointed to rate, raise, and collect, any of the said Sums of Money directed by the said Guardians to be raised in and by any of the said Parishes as aforesaid, shall, after he, they, or any of them shall have so collected and received all or any of such Monies, embezzle or expend the same; or shall refuse or neglect to pay over the same Money, and to account to the said Treasurer of the said Corporation, or to such other Person as is herein, or as the said Corporation shall direct as aforesaid; it shall be lawful for any One Justice of the said City, on Complaint thereof to him made by the said Guardians, by any Order of any subsequent Court, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, and who is hereby required to grant the same, to cause such Money to be forthwith levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of every such Person or Persons, with the Costs of such Distress and Sale, to be allowed of by such Justices: And in case no such sufficient Distress can be had and made, then, by such like Warrant, to cause such Person or Persons so offending, to be apprehended, and to commit him or them to the Common Gaol of the said City; there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall pay all such Money and Charges, and shall account and conform according to the Effect of such Precept, for making any such Rate, and according to the Tenor of this Act, or have compounded for such Money; which Composition the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, are hereby impowered to make: And in case any such Person shall abscond and depart from the said City with or without making such Payments of any Money so by him collected, or shall compound for the same in manner aforesaid, or shall so secrete himself as to avoid being apprehended and

committed as aforesaid; it shall be lawful for the said Corporation, although the same may have been collected again, or made up by Means of any subsequent or intervening Rate in any such Parish, by the Order and to the Use of the said Corporation, in either or any such Case, to sue for, and to recover the same Money so collected, and every Part thereof, against each and every such Person, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain, without Limitation of Time; wherein no Essoin, or Wager of Law, or any Imparlance shall be allowed: And upon a Verdict for the said Corporation, they shall recover Treble the Amount of the Money so collected, and Treble Costs of Suit, and shall have such Remedy for the same as any Plaintiff or Plaintiffs hath or have in any other Cases by Law.

Damages and Costs.

And which Money and Costs, after deducting all other Costs expended by the said Guardians in or by reason of any such Suit, when received by them, shall be placed to the Credit and to the Account of the particular Parish, from whence and in respect whereof such Money so recovered had been originally collected; and in order to charge every such Person with the Receipt of such Money to be so by him collected as aforesaid, the several and respective Persons paying any such Money, or any Part thereof, shall, and are hereby declared to be good and competent Witnesses to prove any of such Payment by him, her, or them.

Persons paying the Money to be competent Witnesses.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person to whom any such Precept to make and collect any such Rates within any such Parish, for the Use of, and under the Seal of the said Corporation as aforesaid, shall happen to die before all or any Part of such Money to be so rated shall be collected by him, the Whole, or so much thereof as shall remain uncollected by the Person so dying, shall be collected and levied by the surviving Person or Persons to whom each such Warrant or Precept shall from Time to Time be directed; and he or they shall afterwards execute the same in all Respects herein directed; and all such Money as shall or may, at the Death of any such Person, have been collected and received by him under any such Rate, and remaining in his Hands, shall within Ten Days after such his Decease, be paid by his legal Representative or Representatives, or Person possessing his late Estate and Effects, to the surviving Person or Persons, or any of them to whom the particular Precept, by virtue whereof such Money had been receiv-

On Death of Collector, Survivor to proceed.

Personal Representatives liable to pay Monies collected by their Testator Intestate.

ed,

ed, was so directed, who shall be answerable to pay over the same to the Treasurer, or other Person hereby impowered to receive the same, for the Use of the same Corporation, under the like Penalty for Disobedience, and subject to the like Remedies against him or them for Recovery thereof by the said Guardians, as if he or they had originally collected any such Money: And in case any such Representative or Representatives of any such deceased Person, or the Person possessing his late Estate and Effects as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse, upon the Demand of such surviving Collector, or of any other Person to be directed by the said Guardians to pay over to such surviving Collector, or to any other Person whom the said Guardians shall appoint, all the Money having been so collected by, and remaining in the Hands of any such deceased Person at his Death, it shall be lawful for any One Justice of the said City, upon Complaint to him thereof made by Order of the said Corporation, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to levy all such Money by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels, late of the Person so deceased, with the Costs of such Distress and Sale: And for Want of such Distress, it shall be lawful for the said Guardians to sue for and recover any of such Money, although the Deficiency thereof may have been again raised and collected by such Parish by Order of the said Guardians, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any Court of Record in Great Britain, against the Heir at Law, or personal Representative of the Person or Officer being dead; whose real and personal Effects are hereby made severally liable and subject thereto: And upon a Verdict for the said Guardians, they shall recover Treble Costs of Suit, and have such Remedy for the same, as any Plaintiff or Plaintiffs hath or have in any other Cases by Law; and which Money and Costs, after deducting thereout all the other Costs expended in such Suit by the said Guardians, when received, shall be placed to the Credit and Account of the Parish, from which such Money, so recovered, had been originally rated and collected: And any Person or Persons having paid any Part of such Rates or Money so having been collected by any such deceased Person before his Death, shall, and are hereby declared to be good and competent Witnesses to prove any of such Payments by him, her, or them.

Persons whose Houses are cut into Lodgings to be rated.

And whereas there may be some Houses in the said City, which are lett out in separate Apartments, and others lett ready furnished to Lodgers; be it therefore further

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further enacted, That every Person, whether Landlord or Tenant, who letts out his or her House in separate Apartments, or ready furnished, shall, for the Purposes of this Act, be deemed the Occupier thereof, and may be rated or assessed accordingly; and shall be liable and subject to the Payment of the Sum so rated or assessed.

Goods of Lodgers liable to the Rate.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That the Goods and Chattels of every Person renting or occupying any separate Apartment in any such Houses, or renting or occupying any ready-furnished House, shall be liable to be distrained and sold, for the Payment of the Rate or Assessment; and that each and every Person who shall pay such Rate or Assessment, so charged on his or her respective Landlord or Landlords, or upon whose Goods and Chattels the same shall be levied in pursuance of this Act, shall and may deduct the same from and out of the next Rent due and payable to his, her, or their Landlord or Landlords, so letting the same; and the Receipt for such Payment shall be a sufficient Discharge to the Landlord or Landlords, for so much Money as he or she shall have so paid, or as shall have been so levied on his or her Goods and Chattels, in pursuance of this Act.

For mortgaging the Rates.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, at any of their publick Meetings, to borrow and take up at Interest, any Sum or Sums of Money, which they shall think necessary for the Purposes of this Act, and by Writing or Writings under their Hands and Seals, to assign over the Rates and Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act, or any Part or Proportions thereof, to the Persons lending the same, for securing the Repayment of any such Sum and Sums of Money, and Interest thereupon; and in Default of the Payment of such Interest, at the Expiration of every Six Calendar Months, if the same shall be demanded; or upon Default of the Payment of such principal Money within Twelve Calendar Months after Notice shall be given, demanding Payment thereof, to the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, at some or One of their publick Meetings, by the Person or Persons respectively intitled to the same, such Person and Persons shall have the same Powers, Rights, and Privileges for the Recovery thereof, as the Annuitants are by this Act invested with for Recovery of their respective Annuities; but no more principal Money shall be borrowed upon the Credit of this Act, either by Annuities or Assignments of the Rates or Assessments as aforesaid, than the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds.

Manner of recovering Principal and Interest.

10,000 *l.* to be raised by Annuities and Mortgage of Rates.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be raised by Annuities in Manner herein mentioned, and applied to the Discharge of the Money so borrowed upon the Credit of the said Rates and Assessments, and the Interest for the same, shall not be deemed or taken to be any Part of the said Ten thousand Pounds. Annuities no Part thereof.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall apprehend him, her, or themselves, to be unequally taxed, charged, or rated, by any Rate or Assessment made within any of the said several Parishes, pursuant to the Powers hereby given, the Churchwardens or Overseers, or other Person or Persons appointed to make and collect any such Rate for the Time being, shall, and is and are hereby required, upon the Request of any Person or Persons apprehending him, her, or themselves, to be so aggrieved, to produce and shew to him, her, or them, any such Precept directing any such Rate, and any such Rate or Assessment made in pursuance thereof, and shall permit him, her, or them, to inspect or take any Copy or Extract thereof: And it shall be lawful for any such Person or Persons, within Ten Days after the Date of every such Precept for making of such Rate, or within Three Days exclusive after such Rate made on any such Person or Persons, shall be demanded to be paid, to make Complaint to any Two Justices of the Peace of the said City, who shall and are hereby required to issue their Summons thereupon to the Churchwardens and Overseers, or other Person or Persons having made, or being appointed to make, any such Rate, requiring them, and every of them, within Five Days next afterwards exclusive, at some Hour of the Day, and Place to be therein named, to appear before any Three Justices of the Peace of the said City, whereof the Mayor or the Recorder of the said City for the Time being to be One, and any Two or more of the said Guardians to be joined with them, not being Guardians for or in respect of the same Parish, and then and there to produce the Precept for making every such Rate, with the Rate and Assessment made in pursuance thereof; at which Time and Place such Three Justices, and any Two of such Guardians, not being Justices, who shall be appointed by the Majority of Guardians then present, if more than Two, not being Justices, or any Three of them, shall and hereby have full Power to hear each Complaint, and to examine all Parties and their Evidence thereon upon Oath, by way of and as the Appeal of the Parties so complaining; and Persons aggrieved by the Rates may appeal.

shall

shall then and there make such final Order in the Premises, as shall be binding to the Appellant, and all Parties rated or liable to be rated in any such Assessment; and to all other Persons as to them, or any Three of them, shall appear just and reasonable.

Books of the Corporation to be inspected.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Books, Papers, and Accounts whatsoever, of and belonging to the said Corporation, shall, at any of their said Courts, upon reasonable Notice being first given, be produced to and inspected, during such Time, by any Inhabitant or other Person, being rated to, or paying, in respect to his, her, or their Estate, in any of the said Parishes in the said City, to the Relief of the Poor thereof, who shall then and there be at Liberty, and have Power to protest and declare his, her, or their Objection or Observations to or upon any particular Charges, Rates, Matters, or Proceedings whatsoever, which shall then be heard and taken into Consideration by such Court; and in case the same Court cannot settle and end such Grievance to the Satisfaction of the Party or Parties so making the same Objection, such his, her, or their Objection shall be adjourned over to, and heard at the next following Monthly or Special Court of the said Corporation, when such Order to be made therein by such Court shall be final.

Charities given how to be applied, if not otherwise appropriated.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Gifts, Donations, Benefactions, and Sums of Money whatsoever, now payable, or which shall hereafter become payable for and to the Use of the Poor of, and belonging to any of the said several Parishes, not being directed or liable to be applied for the Support of any private or particular Poor or Charity, or by the Donation particularly appropriated, not being sacramental Money, shall, from Time to Time, from and after the holding of the First Court of the said Corporation under the Powers aforesaid, be had and received by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of each such Parish, or One of them, or by some Person to be appointed by the said Corporation, on the Default of such Churchwardens and Overseers, at the usual and proper Times of Payment; and shall as soon afterwards as may, from Time to Time, be paid over by him or them to the Treasurer, or other Person to be appointed by the said Guardians, or any Five or more of them, for the Use of the said Corporation, and to the Credit and Account of all the said Parishes: And in case any such Churchwarden or Overseer shall refuse or neglect to receive in any of such Money, and pay over the same as aforesaid,

aforesaid, within Ten Days after Demand made thereof by Order of the said Guardians to each such Churchwarden and Overseer; every such Churchwarden and Overseer so neglecting or refusing, and not shewing reasonable Cause for the same to the next following Court, shall severally forfeit and pay, to the Use of the said Corporation, any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, nor under Five Pounds, as the said Guardians, at any following Court, shall order and appoint.

Churchwardens not paying over Charities, to forfeit not exceeding 10*l.* nor under 5*l.*

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Gifts, Grants, and other charitable Benefactions whatsoever, to, or to the Use of the said Corporation, shall be laid out and applied by the said Guardians according to the Direction of every Donor and Benefactor; and where there shall be no such particular Direction, then to the Use of the Poor of all the said several Parishes, according to the Rules herein prescribed; and that the said Guardians shall and may, and have hereby full Power, at any Special Court or Assembly, to elect or chuse any such charitable Person or Benefactor, his or her Heir, Executor, or Administrator, or next of Kin, after his or her Decease, to be a Guardian of the Poor; and who shall be and act as One of the said Body Corporate, for such Time as the said Corporation shall, at such Court, or at any following Special Court, appoint.

Charities to be applied according to the Will of the Donor.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Guardians may, if they think proper, at any of their said Monthly or Special Courts, and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor, or other Person or Persons having the Care of the Poor of any Parish, Township, or other Place, may contract and agree together for the maintaining and employing of the Poor of any such Parish, Township, or Place, by the said Guardians in the said House of Industry, and under the Management of the said Guardians in all Respects, according to the Powers hereby given over the Poor of the said several Parishes herein mentioned, for and during such Time together, not less than One Year, and under such Payments to the said Guardians as they and such other contracting Parties shall mutually agree upon; all of which Poor shall be compellable to go into the said House of Industry, and shall not during each such Contract be otherwise relieved; and shall be subject, in all Respects, to the Rules and Powers of the said Corporation, and to the like Punishments and Prosecutions as the Poor of the said several Parishes are hereby subjected to; and shall be severally liable to be dismissed and dis-

Guardians may contract for the Poor of any other Parish.

charged out of the said House, and from under the Care of the said Guardians, and to be sent to his, her, or their proper Parish, Township, or Place, there to be again relieved and provided for according to Law, for any Breach of such Contract by the Contractors, on their Part, or for any Misbehaviour, Non-conformance, or other Offence in any of such Poor, when, and as the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, shall think proper, and, by the Order of any Monthly or Special Court, shall direct: And that each and every Church-warden and Overseer, or other Person having the Care of the Poor of every such Parish, Township, or Place, shall, and hereby have Authority to raise and levy, by Taxation in each such Parish, Township, or Place, in the same Manner, within such Time, and by such Ways and Means, and with all and every such Power of Distress, and other Powers as are herein before given and appointed as to rating, levying, and raising the Money for the Relief and Employ of the Poor in the said several Parishes, all and every such Sum and Sums of Money for the Maintenance and Employ of all such their respective Poor as the said Guardians shall, from Time to Time, direct and apportion to be paid for all such Poor, according to the Tenor of every such Contract or Agreement; saving and reserving, nevertheless, to any Person rated, or liable to pay any such Rate, Power and Liberty, to appeal against the same to any Two Justices of the Peace residing next the Parish or Place, within such Time, after such Notice, and in such Form as is herein prescribed as to Appeals against any of the Rates to be made in any of the said other Parishes for the Relief of the Poor thereof; and which Two Justices shall, and hereby have, full Power to settle and finally determine such Appeal in such summary Way as aforesaid: And in case any such contracting Church-warden, Overseer, or other Person, on Behalf of any such Parish, Township, or Place, shall neglect or refuse to raise and levy, and to pay all such Sums of Money so directed by the said Corporation to be paid to them in pursuance of every such Contract, every such Church-warden and Overseer, or other Person or Persons having so contracted with the said Corporation, shall, within Ten Days after the Time for every such Payment shall be expired, be and is, and are hereby made severally liable to pay and make good every such Payment to the said Corporation, by and out of his and and their own proper Goods and Effects; and in Default thereof, after Demand made to any One of them, on Behalf of and by Order of the said

said Corporation, it shall be lawful for any One Justice, having Jurisdiction there, on Complaint to him made by Order of the said Corporation, certified to him from any Court, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to levy all such Arrears, and every such Sum and Sums of Money, by Distress and Sale of the proper Goods and Chattels of each or any such Churchwardens or Overseers, or other Person or Persons having so contracted with the said Guardians on the Behalf of any of such Poor, together with the Charges of every such Distress; and for Want of such Distress, by like Warrant under the Hand and Seal of any One Justice, to apprehend, and thereby to commit every such Churchwarden and Overseer, or other such contracting Person to the Common Gaol of the proper City or County, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until all such Arrears and Sums of Money, with the Charges attending any of such Proceedings aforesaid, to be ascertained by any such Justice, shall be fully paid and satisfied to the said Guardians, or compounded for; which Composition the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, are hereby impowered to make.

Provision as to Settlement for Bastards.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Bastard born on the Body of any poor Woman, whose legal Settlement is in any of the Parishes intended to be incorporated within this Act, other than such Parish in which the said House of Industry is or shall be situate, or in any of the Parishes, Townships, or Places only, with the Overseers of the Poor whereof the said Guardians shall at any Time contract for the Maintenance of the Poor thereof, under the Powers given by this Act, and who is under the Care and Government of the said Guardians for the Time being, shall gain or be intitled to any Settlement in the Parish in which the said House of Industry is situate, and where such Bastard shall be born, unless the same shall happen in the proper Parish where the Settlement of the Mother shall then be; but that the Settlement of each such Bastard shall follow that of the Mother as fully as if such Bastard had been born in such Parish, Township, or Place, to which the Settlement of such Mother shall belong, and shall be deemed as One of the Poor thereof by the said Guardians, and to every other Intent and Purpose; with Power, nevertheless, and that it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of every such Parish, Township, or Place, to which the Settlement of every such Woman shall belong, to have and take, and they are hereby intitled to have such Re-

medy against the Mother and the Father of any such Bastard respectively, for the indemnifying the same Parish, Township, or Place, by reason of such Bastard Child, and otherwise in all Respects as the Law directs in the Case of Bastards, and as fully as if such Bastard had been actually born in the Parish, Township, or Place, to which the Mother's Settlement shall so belong: And also that any Two or more of the said Guardians, being Justices of the Peace, shall and may, and have hereby Authority, at the End of One Calendar Month from the Time any such Woman shall be so delivered of any Bastard, and at any Time after she shall have declared on Oath, as the Law in such Cases directs, who is the Father of such Child, in case he shall be one of the Poor under the Care of the said Guardians, to set and inflict such reasonable Punishment on such Mother and such Father, either by Whipping, Confinement, or hard Labour, or by distinguishing him or her with some Badge or Token of the Offence, to be fixed on the most conspicuous Part of his or her outside Garment, as the said Guardians, being Justices of the Peace, shall think fit and proper.

For applying the Surplus of the Poors Earnings.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case it shall ever hereafter happen, that by Reason of the Employment and Industry of the Poor of the said several Parishes in the said City of Oxford, by virtue of the Powers hereby given, there shall be made and result such Benefit, Profit, and Increase, from the Labour and Industry of such Poor, of which the said Guardians shall wholly judge and determine, as will, at and for any certain Time to come, not less than One Year, be more than sufficient to maintain and employ all such Poor, and to answer the Purposes of the said Corporation; then, and so often, and for such Time as the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, shall find there shall be such clear Benefit, Profit, and Increase, there shall not be any Sums of Money rated or collected in the said several Parishes, for the Use of the said Corporation, or the Poor under the Government thereof, by virtue of any Precept from the said Guardians or otherwise: And that all such Benefit, Profit, and Increase, so from Time to Time to arise, shall be, and is hereby vested in the said Guardians, with Power to place all such Surplusage of Profit at Interest, or to lay out the same in the Purchase of Lands of Inheritance, and again to call in and assign, and to alienate any such Lands, or otherwise to manage the same, for the future Maintenance and Employ of the Poor of

the said several Parishes, and the Uses of the said Corporation, as they shall, from Time to Time, think most proper.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures inflicted, directed, and made payable to the Use of the said Corporation, as herein is and are mentioned and expressed, except in such Cases where it is hereby otherwise ordered, and also all other pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures whatsoever herein mentioned, or which shall be inflicted and appointed by any Bye-law or Ordinance to be made by the said Corporation, pursuant to the Powers hereby given, shall and may be severally recovered, and are hereby directed and impowered to be severally recovered, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of every such Person having incurred any such Forfeitures, and so offending, by virtue of a Warrant or Warrants under the Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, of any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said City of Oxford; together with the Costs of Distress to be ascertained by such Justice or Justices, who are hereby severally impowered, and are hereby so required, upon the Application of any Person, by Order of the said Guardians, or of any other Person claiming such Penalty, or any Part thereof, to issue and grant such Warrant or Warrants; and in case such sufficient Distress shall not be found, then it shall be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the said City, by Warrant under his or their Hand or Hands, upon the like Application, to apprehend any such Offender or Offenders in the said City of Oxford, or in any other County or Place in Great Britain, although out of the original Jurisdiction of such Justice or Justices; and by virtue of such Warrant, and by Words in the Body thereof, to commit, and to direct such Offender or Offenders to be committed, when so apprehended, to the Common Gaol of the City, County, or Place, wherein he, she, or they shall be so apprehended, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for such Space of Time as the said Justice or Justices by such Warrant shall appoint, not exceeding Six, nor less than Three Calendar Months, unless he or they shall sooner pay such Penalty or Forfeitures, with all the Charges attending the Proceedings against him or them, to be ascertained by any One Justice of the said City: And such of the aforesaid Penalties and Forfeitures as shall be so recovered for the Use of the said Corporation, shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Corporation, or to

Recovery of Penalties,

and Application.

some other Person, for the Use of the said Corporation, as the said Guardians, or any Nine or more of them, shall appoint.

Expences of this Act to be first paid.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Charges and Expences incurred in and about procuring and passing this Act, shall be paid out of the first Monies which shall arise by virtue of this Act.

Not to vary the Limits of the Parishes.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act or any Thing herein contained, shall not vary, alter, or affect, the Limits or Jurisdiction of any of the said several Parishes in the said City of Oxford; or to unite or affect the same in any Manner further or otherwise than is mentioned and expressed in and by this Act: And that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of and in each of the said several Parishes, shall be chosen in and out of each of the said several Parishes, from Time to Time, as the Law now directs; but that they and every of them, when so chosen, shall act and be subservient in all Respects in Manner herein directed, and pursuant to the Powers and Authorities hereby given and enacted.

Distress not deemed unlawful for want of Form.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Distress and Sale shall be made for any Sum or Sums of Money directed to be levied, or any Person or Persons shall be arrested, or apprehended and committed, by Force of this Act, or by virtue of any Clause therein contained, or by or in consequence of any Power hereby given, from the Beginning to the End hereof, either to the said Corporation, or to the said Commissioners, or to any Justice or Justices of the Peace or otherwise howsoever; no such Distress, Sale, Arrest, or Commitment, shall be deemed unlawful, nor the Party or Parties making or doing the same respectively, be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers, on account of, or by reason of any Defect or want of Form, or other Irregularity in any Summons, Conviction, Order, Warrant, or other Proceeding or Proceedings whatsoever, relating to, or concerning any such Distress, Sale, Arrest, or Commitment; nor shall the Party or Parties making or doing the same Distress, Sale, Arrest, or Commitment respectively, be deemed or construed a Trespasser or Trespassers ab initio, on account of any Irregularity which shall be afterwards done or transacted in any such Case by him or them; but the Person or Persons aggrieved by any such Irregularity, shall and may recover Satisfaction for the Special Damages

Damages only, and shall have no more Costs than Damages in an Action upon the Case.

Proceedings not to be quashed for want of Form.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Order made touching or concerning any of the Matters in this Act contained, or any other Proceedings to be had touching the Conviction of any Offender or Offenders against this Act, or any Part thereof, 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 whatsoever, any Law or Statute to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Limitation of Actions.

Provided also, That no Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons, for any Thing done or to be done in pursuance of this Act, or any Clause, Power, or Thing herein contained, from the Beginning to the End thereof, until after Ten Days Notice thereof in Writing, signed by the Party aggrieved, shall be given to the Treasurer or the Clerk of the said Corporation, or to the Treasurer or Clerk of the said Guardians for the Time being, under whose Power and Authority the Grievance shall have most immediately arisen; nor after a sufficient Satisfaction, or a Tender thereof, hath been made to the Party or Parties so alledging him, her, or themselves to be aggrieved; nor after Six Calendar Months next following such Grievance, and the Fact committed: And every such Action shall be laid in the County of Oxford, and be tried in the said County, and not elsewhere: And the Defendant and Defendants in every such Action or Suit shall and may plead at his Election specially, or the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in pursuance of this Act, or by Force of some or one of the Powers and Authorities hereby given: And if the same shall appear to be so done, or that such Action or Suit shall be brought before Ten Days Notice had been thereof given as aforesaid, or after a sufficient Satisfaction made or tendered as aforesaid, or after the Time limitted for bringing the same as aforesaid, or shall be brought or tried in any other County than as aforesaid; then the Jury, in any such Case, shall find for the Defendant or the Defendants: And upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared; or if, upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs; then the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover

General Issue.

Treble Costs. recover Treble Costs, and have such Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, and every Thing herein contained, shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a Publick Act, and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.