ANNO UNDECIMO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XL.

An Act for the more effectually preventing the Counterfeiting the Copper Coin of this Realm.

WHEREAS the Coining, or Counterfeiting, any of the Copper Monies of this Realm being punishable only as a Misdemeanor, the Practice thereof hath of late Years greatly prevailed, and is likely to continue to increase, to the great Prejudice of Trade, and the manifest Wrong and Injury of His Majesty's Subjects: For Redress of which growing Mischief, 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 if any Person or Persons shall, from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, make, coin, or counterfeit, any of the Copper Monies of this Realm, commonly called an Halfpenny, or a Farthing, such Person or Persons offending therein, and his, her, or their Counsellors, Aiders, Abettors, and Procurers, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony.

Preamble.

Persons after *June* 24, 1771, counterfeiting Copper Halfpence or Farthings, to be adjudged, with their Abettors, guilty of Felony.

7.

All Persons buying, selling, or putting off, counterfeit Money,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall, from and after the said Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one, buy, sell, take, receive, pay, or put off any counterfeit Copper Money, not melted down, or cut in Pieces, at or for a lower Rate or Value than the same, by its Denomination, doth or shall import, or was counterfeited for, every such Person and Persons shall be adjudged guilty of Felony.

guilty of Felony.

Justices, on Complaint of Persons concernedincounterfeiting Coin, to cause their Houses to be seaached.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any One Justice of the Peace, on Complaint made before him, upon the Oath of One credible Person, that there is just Cause to suspect that any One or more Person or Persons is, or hath been concerned in counterfeiting the Copper Monies of this Realm, by Warrant under his Hand, to cause the Dwelling-house, Room, Workshop, Outhouse, Yard, Garden, or other Place, belonging to such suspected Person or Persons, to be searched for Tools and Implements for coining such Copper Monies; and if any such Tools or Implements shall at any Time be found hid, or concealed, in any Place so searched, or be found in the Custody or Possession of any Person or Persons whatsoever, not then employed in the coining of Money in some of His Majesty's Mints, nor having the same by some lawful Authority, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons whatsoever discovering the same, to seize, and he and they are hereby authorized and required to seize the same, and to carry them forthwith to some Justice of the Peace of the County, City, or Place, where the same shall be seized, who shall cause the same to be secured, and produced in Evidence against any Person or Persons who shall or may be prosecuted for any of the Offences aforesaid, in some Court of Justice proper for the Determination thereof; and after such Time as they, or any of them, shall have been produced in Evidence, as well the same so produced as the other so seized and not made use of, in Evidence, and every of them, shall forthwith, by Order of that Court where such Offender or Offenders shall be tried, or by Order of such or some other Justice of the Peace, in case there be no such Trial, be defaced and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of, as such Court, or such Justice, shall direct.

Persons discovering Tools or Instruments may seize the same,

which shall be defaced and destroyed as Justice shall direct.

FINIS.

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