Anno octavo

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XV.

An Act for the more ſpeedy and effectual Tranſportation of Offenders.

WHEREAS ſeveral Offenders, convicted of Crimes for which they are by Law excluded the Benefit of Clergy, are reprieved by the Judge who tries them, and recommended by him to His Majeſty's Mercy; who generally, on ſuch Recommendation, is graciouſly pleaſed to extend the ſame to them, on Condition of Tranſportation to ſome of His Majeſty's Colonies and Plantations in America for Life, or for the Term of Fourteen Years; and ſuch Intention of Mercy is ſignified by One of His Preamble.

Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to the Judges at the next Assizes after such Conviction, who thereupon order such Offenders to be transported accordingly: And whereas, by this Method of ordering the Transportation, such Offenders lie several Months in Gaol after Conviction; whereby they are rendered less capable of being useful to the Public in the Parts of America to which they are sent: For Remedy thereof, May it 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 where any Offender shall hereafter be convicted of any Crimes for which he or she is by Law to be excluded the Benefit of Clergy, and the Judge, or Justice of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery, in any County, City, or Place, before whom any such Offender shall be convicted or condemned, shall grant a Reprieve for the staying of Execution of such Offender, and recommend him or her to his Majesty as a proper Object of his Majesty's Mercy; if his Majesty, his Heirs, or Successors, shall be graciously pleased to extend Royal Mercy to any such Offender upon Condition of Transportation to any Part of America, and such Intention of Mercy shall be signified by One of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to the Judge so recommending; it shall and may be lawful for every such Judge, or Justice of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery, to make an Order for the immediate Transportation of every such Offender, in the same Manner as if such Intention of Mercy had been signified to him by One of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, during the Continuance of the Assizes at which such Offender was condemned; and such Order shall be considered as an Order made at such Assizes or Place, and shall be as effectual, to every Intent and Purpose, and shall have all the same Conse-

Where His Majesty's Mercy shall be extended to any Offender, upon Condition of Transportation, and the same be signified to the Judge by One of the Principal Secretaries of State, such Judge may make Order for the immediate Transportation of such Offender;

quences in every Respect, as any Order for the Transportation of any Offender made by any Justice of Oyer and Terminer or Gaol Delivery for such County, City, or Place; and such Offender shall be transferred, conveyed, and made over, to any Person who will contract for the Performance of such Transportation, and to his and their Assigns, for the Term of Fourteen Years, in case such Condition of Transportation be general; or else for such other Term or Terms as shall be made Part of such Condition, if any particular Time be specified by His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, as aforesaid: And such Person or Persons so contracting as aforesaid, his or their Assigns, by virtue of such Order of Transfer as aforesaid, shall have a Property and Interest in the Service of the said Offender, for such Terms as aforesaid; and such Transportation shall have the Effect of a Pardon under the Great Seal for such Offender, as to the Crime of which he or she was so convicted: But if such Offender, so ordered for Transportation, shall be afterwards at Large within any Part of this Kingdom of Great Britain, without some lawful Cause, before the Expiration of the Term for which such Offender shall have been ordered to be transported; every such Person, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall suffer Death as in Cases of Felony without Benefit of Clergy; and shall be tried before such Judges, and in such Manner, and the same Evidence made use of for his or her Conviction, as are directed, by the Laws now in being, for the Trial of other Felons found at Large within this Kingdom before the Expiration of the Term for which they were ordered to be transported: And whoever shall discover, apprehend, and prosecute to Conviction of Felony without Benefit of Clergy, any such Offender so found at Large within this Kingdom, shall be intitled to the like Reward of Twenty Pounds, and Certificate, and in the same Manner, as any Person may be intitled to for discover-

who shall thereupon be transferred and made over to the Contractor, &c.

who shall have a Property in the Service of such Offender for the Term for which he or she is to be transported.

Offender afterwards seen at Large in *Great Britain*, without lawful Cause, before the Expiration of the said Term, is to suffer Death;

and the Person apprehending and prosecuting such Person to Conviction, is intitled to 20 *l.* Reward, and a Certificate.

discovering, apprehending, and prosecuting to Conviction, any Person ordered to be transported, and found at Large within this Kingdom before the Expiration of the Term for which such Person was ordered to be transported.

FINIS.