ANNO TRICESIMO QUINTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. CXXIV.

An Act to enable Woolcombers to exercise Trades in any Town or Place in *Great Britain*.

[26th *June* 1795.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the combing of Wool forms a distinct and considerable Branch of the Woollen Manufacture, in which Branch great Numbers of industrious Persons have been educated and employed; and whereas from the great Improvement of Machinery the Employment hitherto afforded to such Persons and their Families is likely to be much diminished: And whereas many of them would willingly employ themselves in other Branches of the Woollen Manufacture, or in such Trades as they are, or may become, apt or able to follow and make use of, for the getting their Living by their own Labour, but are, or may be, hindered from exercising those Trades in certain Cities and Corporations, and other Places, within this Kingdom, because of certain Bye-Laws and Customs of those Places, or of the Statute, made in the Fifth Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, prohibiting the Use of certain Trades to any Person who hath not served as an Apprentice to such Trade for the Space of Seven Years; for Remedy whereof, 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 all such Persons who have served an Apprenticeship to the Art, Mystery, or Trade, of a Woolcomber, or who are, by Law, entitled to use and exercise the same, and also the Wives and Children of such Woolcombers, may set up and exercise such Trade, or any other Trade or Business which they are apt and able for, in any Town or Place within this Kingdom, without any Let, Suit, or Molestation, of any Person or Persons whatsoever, for or by reason of the using of such Trade; nor shall such Woolcombers, or their Wives or Children, during the Time they shall exercise such Trades, be removeable from such respective Place or Places to his, her, or their, last legal Place of Settlement, by virtue of any Law now in being relative to the Settlement of the Poor, until such Person or Persons shall become actually chargeable to such Parish or Place; and if any such Wool-

Woolcombers, and their Families, may set up Trade in any Place;

nor shall they be removeable until they become chargeable.

Perſons ſued, proving their Apprenticeſhip, &c. to be found Not Guilty.

Woolcomber, or the Wife or Child of any ſuch Woolcomber, ſhall be ſued, impleaded, or indicted, in any Court whatſoever within this Kingdom, for uſing or exerciſing any ſuch Trades as aforeſaid, then the ſaid Woolcomber, or the Wife or Child of any ſuch Woolcomber, making it appear to the ſame Court where they are ſo ſued, impleaded, or indicted, that they have ſerved a legal Apprenticeſhip to the ſaid Trade of a Woolcomber, as aforeſaid, or that he, ſhe, or they, is or are the Wife or Wives, Child or Children, of ſuch Woolcomber or Woolcombers who ſhall have ſo ſerved a legal Apprenticeſhip as aforeſaid, ſhall, upon the General Iſſue pleaded, be found Not Guilty, in any Plaint, Bill, Information, or Indictment, exhibited againſt them; and ſuch Perſons who, notwithſtanding this Act, ſhall proſecute the ſaid Suit by Bill, Plaint, Information, or Indictment, and ſhall have a Verdict paſs againſt him, or become nonſuit therein, or diſcontinue their ſaid Suit, ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall pay unto ſuch Woolcomber, or the Wife or Child of ſuch Woolcomber reſpectively, Double Coſts of Suit; to be recovered as any other Coſts at Common Law may be recovered; and all Judges and Juries before whom any ſuch Suit, Information, or Indictment, ſhall be brought, and all other Perſons whatſoever, are to take Notice of this preſent Act, and ſhall conform themſelves thereto; any Statute, Law, Ordinance, Cuſtom, or Proviſion, to the contrary in anywiſe notwithſtanding.

Double Coſts.

Judges, &c. to notice this Act.

Juſtices may ſummon Woolcombers to make Oath of their legal Settlement.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two or more Juſtices of the Peace for the County, Town, or Place, where any ſuch Woolcomber, or his Wife or Child, ſhall ſet up and exerciſe any Trade, as aforeſaid, to cauſe him or her to be ſummoned before them in the Town or Place where he or ſhe ſhall ſet up and exerciſe ſuch Trade as aforeſaid, in order to make Oath of the Place of his or her laſt legal Settlement, (which Oath the ſaid Juſtices are hereby empowered to adminiſter), and ſuch Woolcomber, or his Wife or Child, is hereby directed to obey ſuch Summons, and to make Oath accordingly; and ſuch Juſtices are hereby required to give an atteſted Copy of ſuch Affidavit ſo made before them to the Perſon making the ſame, in order that he or ſhe may produce it when required; which atteſted Copy ſhall, at any Time, be admitted as Evidence as to ſuch laſt legal Settlement, before any of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace at any General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace; Provided always, that in caſe any ſuch Woolcomber, or his Wife or Child, ſhall again be ſummoned to make Oath as aforeſaid, then, on ſuch atteſted Copy of the Oath by him or her formerly taken being produced by him or her, or by any other Perſon on his Behalf, ſuch Woolcomber, or his Wife or Child, ſhall not be obliged to take any other or further Oath with regard to his or her legal Settlement, but ſhall leave a Copy of ſuch atteſted Copy of his or her Examination, if required.

Copy of Affidavit to be given, which ſhall be Evidence, &c.

Act not to prejudice the Univerſities.

III. Provided always, That this Act ſhall not in anywiſe be prejudicial to the Privileges of the Univerſities of *Cambridge* and *Oxford*, or either of them; or extend to give Liberty to any Perſon to ſet up the Trade of a Vintner, or to ſell any Wine or other Liquors within the ſaid Univerſities without Licence firſt had and obtained from the Vice Chancellor of the ſame reſpectively.

FINIS.