


ANNO SEPTIMO & OCTAVO

# VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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## CAP. CIX.

### An Act to indemnify Persons connected with Art Unions, and others, against certain Penalties.

[5th *September* 1844.]

WHEREAS certain voluntary Associations have been formed in various Parts of the United Kingdom, under the Name of Art Unions, for the Purchase of Pictures and other Works of Art, to be afterwards allotted and distributed, by Chance, Lot, or otherwise, among the several Members, Subscribers, or Contributors constituting or forming Part of such Associations, or for raising Sums of Money by Subscription, to be distributed by Lot as Prizes amongst the Members, Subscribers, or Contributors forming Part of such Associations, on the Condition, nevertheless, that such Prizes be expended solely and entirely in the Purchase of Pictures or other Works of Art: And whereas other Persons, either conjointly or separately, have also obtained Funds from Subscribers, on Condition of such Persons distributing by Lot or otherwise certain Pictures, Engravings, or other Works of Art among the Subscribers last aforesaid: And whereas such Distributions of Works of Art, and the Proceedings taken to carry the same into effect, may be deemed and taken to come within the Provisions of the several Acts of Parliament passed for the Prevention of Lotteries, Littlegoes, and unlawful Games, whereby the Members of such Art Unions as aforesaid, or other Persons acting as Distributors of Works of Art as aforesaid,

 may

may be liable or subjected to certain Pains and Penalties imposed by Law on Persons concerned in Lotteries, Littlegoes, and unlawful Games: And whereas it is expedient that all Members, Subscribers, Contributors, Distributors, and other Persons belonging to such voluntary Associations or Art Unions as aforesaid, or acting under their Authority or Direction, or on their Behalf, and all other Persons acting as Distributors of Works of Art as aforesaid, or Persons acting under their Authority or on their Behalf, shall be discharged and protected from any Pains and Penalties to which they may have rendered themselves liable, or to which they may become liable, by reason of any such their Proceedings as aforesaid: Be it enacted by the Queen'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,

Art Unions, and the Members thereof, and other Persons, discharged from all Suits, &c. to which they might be liable touching the Purchase or Distribution of Works of Art by Chance previous to the Periods herein mentioned.

That all such Art Unions, and all Members, Contributors, Subscribers, Distributors, or Officers thereof, and Persons acting for them or on their Behalf, and all other Persons acting as Distributors of Works of Art as aforesaid, or Persons acting under their Authority or on their Behalf, shall, so far as relates to Persons other than Members of the said Art Unions, or Persons acting on their Behalf, be discharged and freed from all Suits, Prosecutions, Liabilities, Pains, and Penalties to which by Law they may be liable as being concerned in Lotteries, Littlegoes, or unlawful Games, for any thing done or which may be done by them or any of them herebefore or before the First Day of *October* next ensuing the passing of this Act; and as to all other Persons, being Members of the said Art Unions as aforesaid, they shall be discharged and freed from all Suits and Prosecutions, Liabilities, Pains, and Penalties to which by Law they might be liable as being concerned in Lotteries, Littlegoes, or unlawful Games, for any thing done or which may be done by them or any of them herebefore or before the Thirty-first Day of *July* next, touching the Purchase of any such Pictures or other Works of Art, or the Sale or Distribution thereof by Chance or Lot.

Act may be amended this Session.

II. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act passed in the present Session of Parliament.

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