

ANNO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Sess. 2.

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Port, particularly in the Summer Months, and that it had frequently happened that there had not been Room within a convenient Distance from the said Quays for storing the same, by reason whereof, and of the Expence of removing the same, the Quays had been often through Necessity greatly encumbered, and the Danger of Fire to the Ships in the Port much dreaded; and that, with a view to provide a Remedy for the afore-mentioned Inconveniences, the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Society of Merchant Venturers of the City of *Bristol* had purchased certain Docks and Yards in the Parish of *Clifton* in the County of *Gloucester*, adjoining to the River *Avon*, within the said Port, and had at a very considerable Expence rendered One of the said Docks, then called the Floating Dock, capable of receiving and floating the largest Ships used in the said Port; and that the Danger of Fire to the Ships in the said Port and to the City of *Bristol* would be greatly lessened, and that it would be more beneficial to all Persons using the Trade of the said Port, if the said Floating Dock were enlarged on the North-western Side thereof, and rendered capable of containing a greater Number of Ships than it then could, and if a convenient Quay, with proper Storehouses, Warehouses, Sheds, and Yards, were built, erected, made, and laid out for landing, storing, and laying up the afore-mentioned Articles of Trade; and that the said Society were willing to enlarge the said Floating Dock, and to build such Quay as aforesaid, and to erect and make the several other Works before mentioned; and the said Act enacted, that it should and might be lawful for the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Society of Merchant Venturers of the said City of *Bristol*, and they were thereby authorized and empowered, to enlarge the said Dock called the Floating Dock, on the North-western Side thereof, in such Manner as they should think proper, and likewise to build and make a convenient Quay on such North-western Side, with proper Storehouses, Warehouses, Sheds, Yards, and Places for landing, storing, and laying up the said Goods; and that all the Land and Ground situate on the North-western Side of and adjoining to the said Floating Dock, and extending in Breadth on or towards the North-west from the Quay Wall of the said Floating Dock (whether in its then State or as the same should be enlarged) Two hundred Feet, and extending of the same Breadth from the Water of *Avon* to the North-east End of the said Dock (whether in its then State or as the same should be thereafter enlarged), should be and the same was thereby declared to be a Quay for the landing all Sorts and Kinds of Timber, Planks and Boards, Deals, and Staves, Tar, Pitch, Rosin, and Turpentine, in whatever Quantities the same should from Time to Time be imported into the said Port of *Bristol*, in any Ship or Vessel whatsoever; and that from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of *June* One thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven it should not be lawful for any Person or Persons whomsoever to land any Timber, Planks, or Boards of any Sort or Kind, Deals, Staves, Tar, Pitch, Turpentine, Rosin, or other the Commodities aforesaid, on any Part of the then existing Quays within the said City of *Bristol*, from or out of any Ship or Vessel coming into the said Port of *Bristol*, Two Third Parts of the Cargo whereof should consist of all or any of the said Articles, or from or out of any Lighter, Boat, or other Vessel bringing the same

from any such Ship or Vessel, upon pain of forfeiting for every such Offence the Sum of Fifty Pounds, and the Master or Owner, or other Person having the Command, Charge, or Care of any Ship or Vessel coming into the said Port of *Bristol* after the said Twenty-fourth Day of *June* which would be in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, Two Third Parts of the Cargo whereof should consist of all, any, or either of the said Articles, should cause the said Ship or Vessel to be unladen of all such Articles at the said new intended Quay, upon pain of forfeiting Fifty Pounds for each Offence; but it was by the said Act provided, that nothing therein contained should extend to Timber, Planks, or Boards brought Coastwise into the said Port, or to prevent any Owner or Master of any Ship or Vessel, or the Owner or Owners of any Timber, Planks or Boards, Deals, Staves, Tar, Pitch, Rosin, or Turpentine, or any of the Commodities therein-before recited, or his or their Agent, Factor, or Consignee, from landing or unlading the same or any Part thereof at any private Quay or Wharf within the said Port, where the same might then or at any Time thereafter be landed or unloaded, nor to prevent any such Person or Persons from landing or unlading any of the said Articles at the then existing Quay within the said City of *Bristol*, such Person producing a Certificate, under the Hands of any Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said City and County of the City of *Bristol*, to the proper Officer of His Majesty's Customs within the said Port of *Bristol*, that at the Arrival of such Ship or Vessel a Berth or Place could not be had fit for such Ship or Vessel to lie in for landing and unlading such Articles as aforesaid upon the said new intended Quay, any thing in that Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding: And whereas under and by virtue of an Act passed in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of His said Majesty, intituled *An Act for improving and rendering more commodious the Port and Harbour of* Bristol, and by several subsequent Acts passed for extending the Provisions of such Act, such Parts of the Rivers *Avon* and *Froome* as adjoin the Quays within the said City, and other Parts of the said Rivers within the said City, have long since been formed, by means of Dams thrown across the said River *Avon*, into a Floating Harbour, and Ships and Vessels frequenting the said Harbour and lying at the Quays thereof are no longer left dry by the Reflux of the Tide, and the whole of the several Articles herein-before specified may now and the greater Portion thereof are landed or unladen at such Private Quays or Wharfs within the said Port: And whereas by reason of the Formation of the said Floating Harbour as aforesaid, and the Accommodation afforded by such private Quays or Wharfs, and also by Warehouses and Conveniences constructed for the Reception of such several Articles, the Powers and Provisions of the said first-recited Act have become inapplicable to the present State of the Trade of the said Port, and unnecessary, and it is therefore expedient that the said recited Act of the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His said Majesty should be repealed; but the same cannot be effected without the Aid and Authority of Parliament: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and 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

43 G. 3. c. 140.

Recited Act repealed.

Authority of the same, That the said recited Act of the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of His said Majesty shall be and the same is hereby declared to be repealed.

Floating Dock &c. to continue vested in Master, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That the said Floating Dock and all other Property connected therewith, purchased by the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty, either before or after the passing of the said recited Act hereby repealed, and vested in them at the passing of this Act, shall, notwithstanding such Repeal, continue to be the Property of the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty.

Repeal of Act not to affect Provision in Act 48 G. 3. c. 11.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That, notwithstanding the Repeal of the said first-recited Act, all the Powers and Authorities vested and reposed in the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty, or in any of their Officers or Servants, in respect of a certain Wharf or Quay required to be made, completed, and maintained by the *Bristol* Dock Company, under and by virtue of a certain Act passed in the Forty-eighth Year of the Reign of His said Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for completing the Improvement of the Port of* Bristol, and the Power to collect and receive Rates, Dues, and Duties, respecting Ships and Vessels, and their Cargoes, discharged at such Wharf, and all other the Provisions of the said last-mentioned Act with respect to the said Floating Dock, Wharf, or Quay, shall remain in full Force and Effect, and shall be as binding and conclusive on all Persons whomsoever, as if the said recited Act had not been repealed.

Saving the Rights of the Master, &c. under Bristol Dock Acts.

IV. And be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to abridge, alter, or lessen the Rights of the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty, or of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the said City of *Bristol*, under or by virtue of any Acts passed for improving and rendering more commodious the Port and Harbour of *Bristol*, or the Docks connected therewith.

For paying Expences of this Act.

V. And be it enacted, That all the Costs, Charges, and Expences of applying for, obtaining, and passing this Act shall be paid and discharged by the said Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Society of Merchant Venturers.

Public Act.

VI. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such.

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