CHAPTER 34.

An Act to regulate the Employment of Children in places of public amusement in certain cases. [24th July 1879.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the employment of children in places of public amusement in certain cases:

Be it therefore 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, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Children's Dangerous Performances Act, 1879.

Commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall not come into operation until the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and eighty, which date is herein-after referred to as the commencement of this Act.

Penalty for employment of any child in dangerous performances.

3. From and after the commencement of this Act, any person who shall cause any child under the age of fourteen years to take part in any public exhibition or performance whereby, in the opinion of a court of summary jurisdiction, the life or limbs of such child shall be endangered, and the parent or guardian, or any person having the custody, of such child, who shall aid or abet the same, shall severally be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall on summary conviction be liable for each offence to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

Compensation for accident to any child.

And where in the course of a public exhibition or performance which in its nature is dangerous to the life or limb of a child under such age as aforesaid taking part therein, any accident causing actual bodily harm occurs to any such child, the employer of such child shall be liable to be indicted as having committed an assault; and the court before whom such employer is convicted on indictment shall have the power of awarding compensation not exceeding twenty pounds, to be paid by such employer to the child, or to some person named by the court on behalf of the child, for the bodily harm so occasioned; provided that no person shall be punished twice for the same offence.

Evidence of age.

4. Whenever any person is charged with an offence against this Act in respect of a child who in the opinion of the court trying the case is apparently of the age alleged by the informant, it shall lie on the person charged to prove that the child is not of that age.

Recovery of penalties.

5. Every offence against this Act in respect of which the person committing it is liable as above mentioned to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds shall be prosecuted and the penalty recovered with costs in a summary manner, as follows:

11 & 12 Vict. c. 43.

In England, in accordance with the provisions of the Act eleventh and twelfth Victoria, chapter forty-three, intituled "An Act "to facilitate the performance of the duties of justices of the "peace out of sessions within England and Wales with respect "to summary convictions and orders," and of any Act or Acts amending the same; and the court of summary jurisdiction when hearing and determining an information in respect of any offence under this Act shall be constituted either of two or more justices of the peace in petty sessions, sitting at a place appointed for the holding of petty sessions, or some magistrate

or officer sitting alone or with others at some court or other place appointed for the administration of justice for the time being empowered by law to do alone any act authorised to be done by more than one justice of the peace;

In Scotland, in accordance with the provisions of the Summary Procedure Act, 1864, and of any Act or Acts amending the same; and 27 & 28 Vict. c. 53.

In Ireland, within the police district of Dublin metropolis in accordance with the provisions of the Acts regulating the powers and duties of justices of the peace for such district, or of the police of such district, and elsewhere in Ireland in accordance with the provisions of the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act, 1851, and any Act amending or affecting the same. 14 & 15 Vict. c. 93.

CHAPTER 35.

An Act to remit certain Loans made by the Exchequer Loan Commissioners and the Public Works Loan Commissioners, and by the Irish Exchequer Loan Commissioners and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland. [24th July 1879.]

WHEREAS certain loans at the expense of the Consolidated Fund have been made by the Exchequer Loan Commissioners or the Public Works Loan Commissioners for the objects mentioned in the first part of the Schedule to this Act, and by the Irish Exchequer Loan Commissioners or the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland for the objects mentioned in the second part of that Schedule, and in respect of each of those loans the amount mentioned in the fifth column of that Schedule, together with interest, is unpaid, and is due to the said Commissioners on behalf of the Consolidated Fund:

And whereas no further sums can be recovered, either by way of principal or interest, in respect of the said loans, and it is inexpedient to keep open for any further period the account of such loans:

And whereas it is also inexpedient to keep open for any further period the account of the loss arising from the forged Certificate for an Exchequer Bill mentioned in the third part of the said Schedule:

Be it therefore 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, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Loans Remission Act, 1879.

Extinguishment of debts in Schedule.

2. The debts due in respect of the loans mentioned in the first and second parts of the Schedule to this Act, whether granted by the Exchequer Loan Commissioners or the Public Works Loan Commissioners, or by the Irish Exchequer Loan Commissioners or the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and all arrears of interest thereon, shall, after the passing of this Act, be extinguished, and the amount of the debt so extinguished shall be considered as a free grant from Parliament.

The account of the forged Certificate for an Exchequer Bill mentioned in the third part of the Schedule to this Act shall be closed.