retiring clerks who belong to the Admiralty, and for the army as respects the retiring clerks who belong to the department of the Secretary of State for War, to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt of an amount sufficient to repay to the said Commissioners, at the expiration of ten years, the amount advanced by them, together with interest thereon at a rate of not less than three and a half per centum per annum; and the amount of the annuity payable in pursuance of such warrants shall be notified by a certificate under the hand of the actuary of the National Debt Office, in the case of a clerk of the Admiralty to the Admiralty, and in the case of a clerk of the department of the Secretary of State for War to the Secretary of State for War.

Consolidated Fund to repay advances to Commissioners if necessary.

8. If at any time it appear desirable to the Treasury and to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, having regard to the funds out of which the said Commissioners are authorised by this Act to pay the amounts awarded as gratuities, that an issue in money should be made out of the Consolidated Fund in repayment of advances made from such funds, the Treasury may, upon a certificate to that effect under the hands of the Comptroller-General or Assistant Comptroller, acting under the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, issue to the said Commissioners out of the Consolidated Fund, or the growing produce thereof, such sum as may be named in such certificate.

Annuities to be applied to repay issues from the Consolidated Fund.

9. When an issue has been made as aforesaid out of the Consolidated Fund in repayment of advances made by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt under this Act, the actuary of the National Debt Office shall certify to the said Commissioners the annual amount which should be applied for a term of years to be fixed by the Commissioners, with the assent of the Treasury, as the equivalent value of the amount so repaid to the said Commissioners, and the said Commissioners shall annually apply the amount so certified, for the fixed term of years, out of the moneys to be paid to them from year to year in respect of gratuities paid by them under this Act, to the purchase and cancelling of perpetual or other annuities, exchequer bills, bonds, bank advances, or other descriptions of debt, chargeable upon the Consolidated Fund, and the said actuary shall take the rate of interest at which the annual payments are to be made to the said Commissioners under this Act as the basis upon which the amount of the annual payments so to be applied are to be valued.

Definition of "clerk."

10. The word "clerk" in this Act means any person, whether holding office under that or under any higher title, in the said civil departments of the War Office or Admiralty who is paid his remuneration out of moneys provided by Parliament for supply services, and to whom the Commissioners of the Treasury may, in the exercise of their discretion, consider this Act is applicable.

Saving clause.

11. Nothing in this Act shall be held to authorise any person or class of persons to claim as a right any gratuity under this Act, nor to claim any pension, except as is provided for the amount thereof in the fourth section of this Act, otherwise than is provided in the said Superannuation Act of 1859.

22 Vict. c. 26.

Short title of Act.

12. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Admiralty and War Office Regulation Act, 1878.

CHAPTER 54.

An Act to amend the Debtors Act, 1869, and the Debtors Act (Ireland), 1872.

[13th August 1878.]

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, as follows:

Court or judge to have discretion in cases within exceptions 3 and 4 in 32 & 33 Vict. c. 62. s. 4,

1. In any case coming within the exceptions numbered 3 and 4 in the fourth section of the Debtors Act, 1869, and in the fifth section of the Debtors Act (Ireland), 1872, respectively, or within either of those exceptions, any Court or Judge, making the order for payment, or having jurisdiction in the action or proceeding in which the order for payment is made, may inquire into the case, and (subject to the provisoes contained in the said

and 35 & 36 Vict. c. 57. s. 5, respectively.

sections respectively) may grant or refuse, either absolutely or upon terms, any application for a writ of attachment, or other process or order of arrest or imprisonment, and any application to stay the operation of any such writ, process, or order, or for discharge from arrest or imprisonment thereunder.

Short title and construction.

2. This Act may be cited as the Debtors Act, 1878, and shall be construed as one with the Debtors Act, 1869, as regards England, and as one with the Debtors Act (Ireland), 1872, as regards Ireland; and the Debtors Act, 1869, and this Act may be cited as the Debtors Acts, 1869 and 1878, and the Debtors Act (Ireland), 1872, and this Act may be cited as the Debtors Acts (Ireland), 1872 and 1878.

CHAPTER 55.

An Act to enable the Trustees of the British Museum to remove portions of their Collections. [13th August 1878.]

WHEREAS the British Museum was established and the management thereof vested in a corporate body of Trustees by virtue of an Act passed in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of King George the Second, chapter twenty-two, and intituled "An Act "for the purchase of the Museum or Collection of Sir Hans Sloane and of the Harleian "Collection of Manuscripts, and for providing one general repository for the better "reception and more convenient use of the said collections, and of the Cottonian Library, "and of the additions thereto," wherein it was provided that a general repository should be erected within the cities of London or Westminster, or the suburbs thereof, in such convenient place as the Trustees should direct, for the reception of the several collections in the title of the said Act mentioned, and of such other collections and libraries as, with the approbation of the Trustees, should be admitted into the said general repository, which several collections, additions, and libraries so received into the said general repository should remain and be preserved therein for public use to all posterity: And whereas the British Museum has since its foundation become so greatly extended in various departments of literature, science, and art as to render necessary for the reception of the additions which are from time to time made to it a much larger space than can be conveniently obtained in the neighbourhood of the present Museum: And whereas, in addition to collections of books, manuscripts, antiquities, objects of natural history, and other miscellaneous objects, the Trustees of the British Museum are possessed of a number of pictures: And whereas it is expedient that power should be given to the said Trustees to provide room for the additions to the Museum by disposing in manner herein-after mentioned of the collections referred to in the schedule annexed hereto, and of the said pictures:

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:

Power to remove certain collections to South Kensington.

1. The Trustees of the British Museum may, with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, remove the collections specified in the said schedule hereto, or any of them, or any part thereof, to the Natural History Museum now in course of erection at South Kensington, there to remain and be preserved for public use to all posterity.

Power of Trustees over pictures.

2. The Trustees of the British Museum may, if they think fit, and with such consent as aforesaid, assign and deliver to the Trustees and Director of the National Gallery, or to the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, or partly to the one body and partly to the other, all or any pictures belonging to them; and all pictures assigned and delivered in pursuance of this Act shall be held by the assignees on trust to preserve the same for public use to all posterity; but upon their being so assigned and delivered the Trustees of the British Museum shall be deprived of all right to and be released from all responsibility in respect of such pictures.

Power to give away duplicate

3. The Trustees of the British Museum may also give away any duplicate works, objects, or specimens not required for the purposes of the Museum: Provided always,