

ANNO TERTIO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

****

CAP. XV.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Dramatic Literary Property. [10th *June* 1833.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Fifty-fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act to amend the several Acts for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the Authors of such Books, or their Assigns*, it was amongst other things provided and enacted, that from and after the passing of the said Act the Author of any Book or Books composed, and not printed or published, or which should thereafter be composed and printed and published, and his Assignee or Assigns, should have the sole Liberty of printing and re-printing such Book or Books for the full Term of Twenty-eight Years, to commence from the Day of first publishing the same, and also, if the Author should be living at the End of that Period, for the Residue of his natural Life: And whereas it is expedient to extend the Provisions of the said Act; be it therefore 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 from and after the passing of this Act the Author of any Tragedy, Comedy, Play, Opera, Farce, or any other Dramatic Piece or Entertainment, composed, and not printed and published by the Author thereof or his Assignee, or which hereafter

54G.3.c.156.

The Author of any Dramatic Piece shall have as his Property the sole Li-

berty of representing it or causing it to be represented at any Place of Dramatic Entertainment.

after shall be composed, and not printed or published by the Author thereof or his Assignee, or the Assignee of such Author, shall have as his own Property the sole Liberty of representing, or causing to be represented, at any Place or Places of Dramatic Entertainment whatsoever, in any Part of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, in the Isles of *Man*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, or in any Part of the *British* Dominions, any such Production as aforesaid, not printed and published by the Author thereof or his Assignee, and shall be deemed and taken to be the Proprietor thereof; and that the Author of any such Production, printed and published within Ten Years before the passing of this Act by the Author thereof or his Assignee, or which shall hereafter be so printed and published, or the Assignee of such Author, shall, from the Time of passing this Act, or from the Time of such Publication respectively, until the End of Twenty-eight Years from the Day of such first Publication of the same, and also, if the Author or Authors, or the Survivor of the Authors, shall be living at the End of that Period, during the Residue of his natural Life, have as his own Property the sole Liberty of representing, or causing to be represented, the same at any such Place of Dramatic Entertainment as aforesaid, and shall be deemed and taken to be the Proprietor thereof: Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice, alter, or affect the Right or Authority of any Person to represent or cause to be represented, at any Place or Places of Dramatic Entertainment whatsoever, any such Production as aforesaid, in all Cases in which the Author thereof or his Assignee shall, previously to the passing of this Act, have given his Consent to or authorized such Representation, but that such sole Liberty of the Author or his Assignee shall be subject to such Right or Authority.

Proviso as to Cases where previous to the passing of this Act, a Consent has been given.

Penalty on Persons performing Pieces contrary to this Act.

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall, during the Continuance of such sole Liberty as aforesaid, contrary to the Intent of this Act, or Right of the Author or his Assignee, represent, or cause to be represented, without the Consent in Writing of the Author or other Proprietor first had and obtained, at any Place of Dramatic Entertainment within the Limits aforesaid, any such Production as aforesaid, or any Part thereof, every such Offender shall be liable for each and every such Representation to the Payment of an Amount not less than Forty Shillings, or to the full Amount of the Benefit or Advantage arising from such Representation, or the Injury or Loss sustained by the Plaintiff therefrom, whichever shall be the greater Damages, to the Author or other Proprietor of such Production so represented contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, to be recovered, together with Double Costs of Suit, by such Author or other Proprietors, in any Court having Jurisdiction in such Cases in that Part of the said United Kingdom or of the *British* Dominions in which the Offence shall be committed; and in every such Proceeding where the sole Liberty of such Author or his Assignee as aforesaid shall be subject to such Right or Authority as aforesaid, it shall be sufficient for the Plaintiff to state that he has such sole Liberty, without stating the same to be subject to such Right or Authority, or otherwise mentioning the same.

III. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That all Actions or Proceedings for any Offence or Injury that shall be committed against this Act shall be brought, sued, and commenced within Twelve Calendar Months next after such Offence committed, or else the same shall be void and of no effect. Limitation of Actions.

IV. And be it further enaced, That whenever Authors, Persons, Offenders, or others are spoken of in this Act in the Singular Number or in the Masculine Gender, the same shall extend to any Number of Persons and to either Sex. Explanation of Words.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW SPOTTISWOODE, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1833.