ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

Cap. XX.

An Act to alter and enlarge the Powers of *The Gas Light and Coke Company*, and to amend Three Acts of His preſent Majeſty relating to the ſaid Company. [7th *April* 1819.]

WHEREAS an Act was paſſed in the Fiftieth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled *An Act for granting certain Powers and Authorities to a Company to be incorporated by Charter, to be called* The Gas Light and Coke Company, *for making Inflammable Air, for the lighting of the Streets of the Metropolis, and for procuring Coke, Oil, Tar, Pitch, Aſphaltum, Ammoniacal Liquor and Eſſential Oil from Coal, and for other Purpoſes relating thereto:* And whereas His Majeſty, by His Royal Charter bearing Date the Thirtieth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and twelve, did incorporate the ſaid Company, in purſuance of and ſubject to the Proviſions of the ſaid Act, by the ſaid Name of *The Gas Light and Coke Company*; and did thereby, amongſt other Things, enable the ſaid Company to have, take, purchaſe, receive, hold, keep, poſſeſs, enjoy, and retain, to them and their Succeſſors, any Meſſuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Liberties, Privileges, Franchiſes, Hereditaments, and Poſſeſſions whatſoever, and of what Kind, Nature, and Quality ſoever, under the Regulations and Reſtrictions expreſſed in the ſaid Charter: And whereas an Act was paſſed in the Fifty-fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, intituled *An Act for enlarging the Powers of an Act of His preſent Majeſty, for granting certain*

50 G. 3. c. clxiii.

Charter, 30th April 1812.

54 G. 3. c. cxvi.

Powers and Authorities to The Gas Light and Coke Company: And whereas an Act was passed in the Fifty-sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act to alter and enlarge the Powers of Two Acts of His present Majesty, for granting certain Powers to* The Gas Light and Coke Company: And whereas the said Company have proceeded in the Execution of the various Powers granted to them by the said recited Acts and Charter, and have established very large and expensive Works in several Parts of the Metropolis, and have already afforded a considerable Supply of Gas in the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and Parishes adjacent: And whereas, in order to afford greater Security to the Public, and to give additional Stability to their Works, the said Company have, by virtue of the Powers vested in them by the said Charter, entered into Contracts for the Purchase of the Fee-simple of divers Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and Possessions, upon which Works of the said Company now used for the Supply of Gas to the Metropolis are erected: And whereas the Inhabitants of various Parts of the Metropolis still unsupplied with Gas have applied to the said Company to extend their Works for the Purposes of supplying such Parts thereof: And whereas the said Company will be better enabled to carry into full Effect the Powers and Authorities granted to the said Company, if the said Company were authorized and empowered to raise a further Sum of Money, and if the Powers and Provisions of the said recited Acts, or some of them, were altered, enlarged, amended, and extended: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it 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 said Company shall be and continue One Body Politic and Corporate, by their said Name of *The Gas Light and Coke Company*, for the Purpose of producing and supplying Inflammable Air from Coal and other Substances, and for the several other Purposes in the said recited Acts and Charter mentioned; and by that Name shall have perpetual Succession and a Common Seal, and by that Name shall and may sue and be sued, and be impleaded at Law or in Equity, and shall and may prefer and prosecute any Bill or Bills of Indictment against any Person or Persons for any Felony, Misdemeanor, or other Offence indictable by the Laws of this Realm; and to purchase and hold any Lands, with the Houses, Buildings, Messuages, Tenements, and Erections thereon, for the Purposes of the said recited Acts and this Act, not exceeding the Extent of Ten Acres in the whole, without incurring and being liable to any of the Penalties or Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain, or of any other Law or Statute whatsoever; and also to sell, dispose of, or exchange any Lands so purchased, and to convey the same to any Person or Persons purchasing or taking the same; and such Conveyances shall be good, valid, and effectual in the Law, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

56 G. 3. c. lxxxvii.

Company incorporated.

Power to raise a Sum not exceeding £200,000.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Company to raise and contribute among themselves, or by the Admission of new Subscribers, for the Purposes of the said recited Acts and this Act, in addition to the Money which they were authorized and empowered to raise by and under the said recited Acts or any of them for the Purposes thereof, any Sum or Sums of Money not exceeding in the whole the Sum of Two hundred thousand Pounds, in such Propor-

tions as they ſhall think fit, which ſaid Sum and every or any Part thereof, when raiſed, ſhall be laid out in carrying the Purpoſes of the ſaid recited Acts and this Act into Execution, and ſhall be divided into Shares of Fifty Pounds each; and ſuch new or additional Shares ſo to be created by virtue of this Act, and the ſeveral Shares made or created by virtue of the ſaid recited Acts or any of them, ſhall to all Intents and Purpoſes be, and they are hereby declared to be conſolidated, and to be one and the ſame joint Stock and Property; and all Perſons, Bodies Politic, Corporate, and Collegiate, and Parties whomſoever, their ſeveral and reſpective Succeſſors, Executors, Adminiſtrators, and Aſſigns, who have ſeverally ſubſcribed or ſhall hereafter ſubſcribe for One or more Share or Shares, or ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as ſhall be called for or demanded under and by virtue of the ſaid recited Acts or any of them, and who ſhall ſeverally ſubſcribe for One or more Share or Shares, or ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as ſhall be called for or demanded under and by virtue of this Act, for the Purpoſes of the ſaid recited Acts and this Act, ſhall reſpectively be entitled to and receive the entire and net Diſtribution of an equal proportionate Part, according to the Money ſo by them reſpectively paid, and the Time or Times at which the ſame ſhall have been ſo paid, of the Profits or Advantages that ſhall or may ariſe or accrue from the ſaid Undertaking; and every Body Politic, Corporate or Collegiate, and Perſons having ſuch Shares as aforeſaid, ſhall bear and pay a proportionable Sum towards carrying on the ſaid Works reſpectively, in manner directed by the ſaid recited Acts and this Act.

New Shares to be ſubject to the Proviſions of former Acts as to old Shares.

III. And be it further enacted, That each and every Proprietor of each and every Share, which ſhall or may be created by virtue of this Act, ſhall be entitled to ſuch and the ſame Powers, Privileges, and Advantages, and ſhall be ſubject to ſuch and the ſame Rules, Regulations, Reſtrictions, Penalties, and Forfeitures, as in and by the ſaid recited Acts or any of them are expreſſed and contained of and concerning the Shares created by virtue thereof, and now veſted in the ſeveral and reſpective Proprietors of and in the ſaid Undertaking; and the Admiſſion of all and every Perſon and Perſons to any ſuch new Share or Shares, by any Order or Reſolution of the ſaid Company or their Court of Directors, ſhall be and be deemed to be a good and effectual Title to ſuch Perſon or Perſons, and his, her, or their reſpective Executors, Adminiſtrators, or Aſſigns, on his, her, or their paying to the ſaid Company, or their Treaſurer or Treaſurers for the Time being, the Sum or Sums of Money required to be paid for ſuch Shares reſpectively, within the Time limited in ſuch Order or Reſolution for that Purpoſe: Provided always, that no Perſon ſhall be entitled to vote at any General or Special Meeting of the ſaid Company in reſpect of any Shares created by virtue of this Act, until he or ſhe ſhall have been poſſeſſed thereof for the Space of Three Calendar Months.

As to holding General Courts.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the firſt General Court of the Proprietors of the ſaid Company ſhall be holden in the firſt Week in the Month of *November* next after the paſſing of this Act, and all future General Courts ſhall be holden in the firſt Week in the Months of *May* and *November* in each and every Year, in lieu of the Days on which ſuch General Courts have been heretofore held by virtue of the Proviſions of the

the ſaid recited Acts and Charter, or any of them; and at ſuch General Courts the ſaid Company and their Court of Directors ſhall have full Power, and they are hereby authorized, to do and perform all ſuch Acts, Matters, and Things as they were entitled and enabled, and could or might have done, at any General Court of the ſaid Company, under the Powers and Authorities of the ſaid recited Acts and Charter, or any of them, to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever.

Power to tranſact ſuch Matters and Things at the General Courts to be holden by virtue of this Act, as the Company were heretofore empowered to tranſact at the General Courts.

V. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Company of Proprietors ſhall and they are hereby empowered to tranſact ſuch Buſineſs, Matters, and Things at the General Courts to be holden by virtue of this Act in the Month of *November* in every Year, as they have heretofore tranſacted or were empowered to tranſact at the General Courts holden on the Twenty-fourth Day of *June* in every Year, or within Fourteen Days thereof; and alſo ſhall tranſact ſuch Buſineſs, Matters, and Things at the General Courts to be hereafter holden in the Month of *May* in every Year, as they have heretofore tranſacted or were empowered to tranſact at the General Courts holden on the Twenty-fourth Day of *December* in every Year, or within Fourteen Days thereof; and that all Dividends of the Profits of the ſaid Company ſhall be declared from Time to Time upon the Half-years ending on the Twenty-fifth Day of *December* and the Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, at the next enſuing General Court of the Proprietors of the ſaid Company.

Directors how to be choſen.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the preſent Governor, Deputy Governor, and Directors of the ſaid Company, or the Perſon or Perſons elected in their Room or Stead, ſhall continue in Office until the Special Court of Proprietors of the ſaid Company convened at the Time appointed by the ſaid recited Act of the Fiftieth Year of His preſent Majeſty, for the Election of Perſons to ſucceed ſuch Governor, Deputy Governor, and Directors, next after the paſſing of this Act, at which Special Court Three of the ſaid Directors (to be decided by Lot) ſhall go out of Office and ceaſe to be Directors of the ſaid Company; and the ſaid Special Court ſhall then elect by Ballot Three Members of the ſaid Company, duly qualified, to be Directors of the ſaid Company, and ſuch Three Perſons ſo elected ſhall continue in Office for the Space of Four Years (except in caſe of Death, Reſignation, Removal, Refuſal to act, or becoming ineligible or diſqualified), and no longer; and at the Period for holding ſuch Special Court, in the Year next enſuing ſuch Election, Three others of the ſaid Directors (to be decided by Lot) ſhall in like Manner go out of Office and ceaſe to be Directors of the ſaid Company, and the laſt-mentioned Special Court ſhall then elect by Ballot Three Members of the ſaid Company, duly qualified, to be Directors of the ſaid Company, and ſuch laſt-mentioned Three Perſons ſo elected ſhall continue in Office for the Space of Four Years (except in caſe of Death, Reſignation, Removal, Refuſal to act, or becoming ineligible or diſqualified), and no longer; and the remaining Four of the preſent Directors, together with the preſent Governor and Deputy Governor, or the Perſon or Perſons elected in their Room or Stead as aforeſaid, ſhall continue in Office for the Space of Two Years after ſuch laſt-mentioned Special Court, at which Period the Governor, Deputy Governor, and ſuch Four Directors, ſhall go out of Office and ceaſe to be upon the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company; and at the Special Court of the ſaid Company to be then holden,

holden, the ſaid Company ſhall elect by Ballot One Member of the ſaid Company, duly qualified, to be the Governor of the ſaid Company, One Member, duly qualified, to be the Deputy Governor of the ſaid Company, and Four Members of the ſaid Company, duly qualified, to be Directors of the ſaid Company; and the Perſons ſo elected as Governor and Deputy Governor, together with the Perſon elected One of the ſaid Four Directors, and who ſhall have the largeſt Number of Votes upon the ſaid Ballot, ſhall continue in Office for Four Years, and the remaining Three of the ſaid Four Perſons ſo elected Directors ſhall continue in Office for Three Years (except in caſe of Death, Reſignation, Removal, Refuſal to act, or becoming ineligible or diſqualified), and no longer; and at the Special Court of the ſaid Company to be convened at the Time appointed as aforeſaid, for the Election of Directors in every ſucceeding Year, Three Perſons out of the Members of the ſaid Company, duly qualified, ſhall be elected by Ballot by the ſaid Company, to be Members of the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company, in the Room of thoſe going out of Office by Efflux of Time; and ſuch Three Perſons ſo elected ſhall continue in Office for the Space of Four Years (except in caſe of Death, Reſignation, Removal, Refuſal to act, or becoming ineligible or diſqualified), and no longer: Provided always, that it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Company of Proprietors to nominate and appoint any ſuch Perſon or Perſons, duly qualified, and going out of Office, again to be a Member or Members of the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company.

Limitation of Powers of 54 G. 3. c. cxvi. repealed.

VII. And be it further enacted, That ſo much of the ſaid recited Act paſſed in the Fifty-fourth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, as limits the Continuation of the Powers and Authorities thereby granted to the ſaid Company to the Period of Eighteen Years from the Thirtieth Day of *April* One thouſand eight hundred and fifteen, ſhall be and the ſame is hereby repealed.

To prevent Perſons damaging Lamps, Lamp Irons, Iron and other Rails, or extinguiſhing any of the public Lamps.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall wilfully or maliciouſly remove, take away, deſtroy, damage, or injure any or any Part of any Lamp, Lamp Irons, Iron and other Rails, or other Matter or Thing uſed or to be uſed for the Purpoſes of the ſaid recited Acts and this Act, or ſhall wilfully or maliciouſly put out or extinguiſh any of the public Lamps which ſhall or may be lighted with Gas by the ſaid Company, every Perſon ſo offending in any of the reſpective Premiſes, and being thereof convicted on the Oath or Affirmation of One credible Witneſs, before One or more Juſtice or Juſtices for the County, City, Town, Place, Diviſion, or Diſtrict where any ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds nor leſs than Ten Shillings, and Double the Amount of the Damage done, to be aſcertained by ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, ſuch Penalty and Damage, together with reaſonable Coſts, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of ſuch Offender; or ſuch Offender ſhall and may be committed to the Common Gaol or Houſe of Correction of the ſaid County, City, Town, Place, Diviſion, or Diſtrict, for any Time not exceeding One Calendar Month, at the Diſcretion of the Juſtice or Juſtices before whom ſuch Offender ſhall be convicted; and all Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures ſo recovered, (after Payment to the ſaid Company of the Amount of the Damage done, to be aſcertained by ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid) ſhall be applied to the Relief of the Poor of the Pariſh in

which such Offence shall have been committed; and the Overplus of the Money raised by such Distress and Sale (after deducting the Amount of the Damage to be paid to the said Company, and the Amount of the Fines, Penalties, or Forfeitures to the Poor of the said Parish as aforesaid, and the Expences of such Distress and Sale) shall be rendered to the Owner of the Goods and Chattels so distrained.

Special Courts may perform such Acts as are performed by General Courts of Proprietors.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the said Company shall be fully authorized and empowered, at any Special Court of the Proprietors of the said Company, to do and perform all Acts, Matters, and Things which the said Company are now authorized and empowered to do at any General Court of the said Proprietors, provided the Notice for calling such Special Court shall specify such Acts, Matters, and Things proposed to be done and performed at such Special Court.

Offices of Clerk and Treasurer not to be held by one Person.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said Company to appoint the Person who has been or shall be appointed to act as their Clerk in the Execution of the said recited Acts and this Act, or any of them, or the Partner of any such Clerk, the Treasurer for the Purposes of the said recited Acts or this Act, or any of them, or to appoint or continue the Person who has been or shall be appointed Treasurer, or the Partner of any such Treasurer, the Clerk to the said Company for executing the said recited Acts or this Act, or any of them; and if any Person shall act in both the Capacities of Clerk and Treasurer for the Purposes aforesaid, or if any Person being the Partner of any such Clerk shall act as Treasurer, or being the Partner of any such Treasurer shall act as Clerk in the Execution of the said recited Acts or this Act, or any of them, every Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds to any Person or Persons who shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Suit, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, nor more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed.

Directing what shall be deemed a Service of Notices, &c. on the Company.

XI. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases wherein it may be requisite or necessary for any Person or Persons, or Party or Parties, to serve any Notice or Notices upon the said Company, or any Writ or Writs or other legal Proceedings, the Service thereof upon the Clerk of the said Company, or at any of the Offices of the said Company, or left at the last or usual Place of Abode of the Clerk to the said Company; and in case the Residence of the said Clerk be not known, or there be no Office belonging to the said Company, then Service upon any Agent or other Officer employed by the said Company, or upon any Member of the said Court of Directors, or left at his last or usual Place of Abode, shall be deemed good and sufficient Service of the same respectively on the said Company.

50 G. 3. c. clxiii. 54 G. 3. c. cxvi. 56 G. 3. c. lxxxvii. and this Act to be construed as one Act.

XII. And be it further enacted, That all the Powers, Authorities, Provisions, Regulations, Directions, Privileges, Penalties, Forfeitures, Clauses, Restrictions, Matters, and Things whatsoever contained in the said recited Acts, so far as the same were in force at the Time of passing this Act, and so far as the same are not expressly altered or repealed by this Act, shall extend and be construed to extend, and operate and be in force with re-

ſpect to the Sum of Money allowed to be raiſed, and to the additional Shares to be made or created under this Act, and alſo with reſpect to all Matters and Things whatſoever, which may happen or ariſe in the Execution of this Act, as fully and effectually to all Intents and Purpoſes as if the ſame and every Part thereof were repeated and re-enacted in this Act, and were made Part thereof; and the ſaid recited Acts and this Act ſhall, as to all Matters and Things whatſoever, except as aforeſaid, be conſtrued as one Act.

Public Act.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and ſhall be judicially taken Notice of as ſuch by all Judges, Juſtices, and others, without being ſpecially pleaded.

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