ANNO QUADRAGESIMO SEXTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. LIV.

An Act for the more ſpeedy Trial of Offences committed in diſtant Parts upon the Sea.

[23d *May* 1806.]

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament, made in the Twenty-eighth Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, it is enacted, That all Treaſons, Felonies, Robberies, Murders, and Confederacies, committed on the Sea, ſhall be enquired of, tried, and determined, according to the common Courſe of the Laws of this Land uſed for ſuch Offences upon the Land within this Realm: And whereas by another Act of Parliament, made in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of King *William* the Third, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Suppreſſion of Piracy*, it is enacted, that all Piracies, Felonies, and Robberies, committed on the Sea, or in any Haven, River, Creek, or Place, where the Admiral or Admirals have Power, Authority, or Juriſdiction, may be examined, enquired of, tried, heard, and determined, and adjudged, in any Place at Sea, or upon the Land, in any of His Majeſty's Iſlands, Plantations, Colonies, Dominions, Forts, or Factories, to be appointed for that Purpoſe by the King's Commiſſion, in the Manner therein directed, and according to the Rules of the Civil Law: And whereas Treaſons, Murders, and divers other Felonies and Miſdemeanours, not mentioned in the ſaid Statute of the Eleventh Year of the Reign of King *William* the Third, cannot be tried by virtue of any Commiſſion directed under that Act, but the Perſons committing, or charged with having committed the ſame upon the Seas in or near the *Eaſt* or *Weſt Indies*, and in Places very remote, can only be brought to Trial by ſending them to *England* to be tried within this Realm, under the Commiſſion directed by the ſaid Statute of the Twenty-eighth

11 Gul. 3. c. 7.

Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth; whereby not only great Charges and Expences are incurred, but Offenders do oftentimes escape unpunished by reason of the Delay and Difficulties attending such Prosecutions: For Remedy whereof, and in order that one uniform Course of Trial may be had for all Treasons, Piracies, Felonies, Robberies, Murders, Conspiracies, and other Offences committed upon the Seas; 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 all Treasons, Piracies, Felonies, Robberies, Murders, Conspiracies, and other Offences of what Nature or Kind soever, committed upon the Sea, or in any Haven, River, Creek, or Place, where the Admiral or Admirals have Power, Authority, or Jurisdiction, may be enquired of, tried, heard, determined, and adjudged, according to the common Course of the Laws of this Realm used for Offences committed upon the Land within this Realm, and not otherwise, in any of His Majesty's Islands, Plantations, Colonies, Dominions, Forts, or Factories, under and by virtue of the King's Commission or Commissions, under the Great Seal of *Great Britain*, to be directed to any such Four or more discreet Persons as the Lord Chancellor of *Great Britain*, Lord Keeper, or Commissioners for the Custody of the Great Seal of *Great Britain* for the Time being, shall from Time to Time think fit to appoint; and that the said Commissioners so to be appointed, or any Three of them, shall have such and the like Powers and Authorities for the Trial of all such Murders, Treasons, Piracies, Felonies, Robberies, Conspiracies, and other Offences, within any such Island, Plantation, Colony, Dominion, Fort, or Factory, as any Commissioners appointed or to be appointed according to the Directions of the said Statute of the Twenty-eighth Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, by any Law or Laws now in force, have or would have for the Trial of the said Offences within this Realm; and that all Persons convicted of any of the said Offences, so to be tried by virtue of any Commission to be made according to the Directions of this Act, shall be subject and liable to, and shall suffer all such and the same Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures, as by any Law or Laws now in force, Persons convicted of the same respectively would be subject and liable to in case the same were respectively inquired of, tried, heard, determined, and adjudged, within this Realm, by virtue of any Commission made according to the Directions of the said Statute of the Twenty-eighth Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Offences committed on the Seas, &c. may be tried in any of His Majesty's Islands, &c. by virtue of the King's Commission under the Great Seal directed to Four or more discreet Persons, &c.

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