ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SECUNDO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CLVI.

An Act for the more effectual Puniſhment of Perſons aiding Priſoners of War to eſcape from His Majeſty's Dominions. [29th *July* 1812.]

WHEREAS many Priſoners of War confined and on Parole in different Parts of His Majeſty's Dominions have of late eſcaped by the Aid and Aſſiſtance of many of His Majeſty's Subjects and others; and it is neceſſary to repreſs ſuch Practices and Violations of the Allegiance due to His Majeſty and of the Law by more effectual Puniſhment; 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 every Perſon who ſhall, from and after the paſſing of this Act, knowingly and wilfully aid or aſſiſt any Alien Enemy of His Majeſty, being a Priſoner of War in His Majeſty's Dominions, whether ſuch Priſoner ſhall be confined as a Priſoner of War in any Priſon or other Place of Confinement, or ſhall be ſuffered to be at large in His Majeſty Dominions or any Part thereof on his Parole, to eſcape from ſuch Priſon or other Place of Confinement, or from His Majeſty's Dominions, if at large upon Parole, ſhall upon being convicted thereof be adjudged guilty of Felony, and be liable to be tranſported as a Felon for Life, or for ſuch Term of Fourteen or Seven Years as the Court before whom ſuch Perſon ſhall be convicted ſhall adjudge.

Puniſhment of Perſons aiding Priſoners of War to eſcape.

Persons guilty of aiding though they do not assist the Prisoner in quitting the Coast.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That every Person who shall knowingly and wilfully aid or assist any such Prisoner at large on Parole in quitting any Part of His Majesty's Dominions where he may be on his Parole, although he shall not aid or assist such Person in quitting the Coast of any Part of His Majesty's Dominions, shall be deemed guilty of aiding the Escape of such Person under the Provisions of this Act.

Punishment of Persons assisting on the High Seas Prisoners to escape.

III. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons owing Allegiance to His Majesty, after any such Prisoner as aforesaid hath quitted the Coast of any Part of His Majesty's Dominions in such his Escape as aforesaid, shall knowingly and wilfully upon the High Seas aid or assist such Prisoner in his Escape to or towards any other Dominions or Place, such Person shall also be adjudged guilty of Felony, and be liable to be transported as aforesaid; and such Offences committed upon the High Seas and not within the Body of any County, shall and may be enquired of, tried, heard, determined, and adjudged in any County within the Realm, in like Manner as if such Offences had been committed within such County.

Offences may be tried otherwise than under the Provisions of this Act.

IV. And be it also enacted, That this Act shall not be deemed or taken to prevent any Person committing any Offence mentioned in this Act from being prosecuted, in such Manner as he might by Law have been prosecuted if this Act had not passed; but nevertheless no Person prosecuted otherwise than under the Provisions of this Act, shall be liable to be prosecuted for the same Offence under the Provisions hereof; and no Person prosecuted under the Provisions of this Act shall for the same Offence be liable to be otherwise prosecuted.

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