ANNO SEXTO

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

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Proprietors incorporated.

Harwood Anstwick, *George Allaway*, *William Abery*, *John Jackson Blandy*, *Richard Billing*, *Richard Buncombe*, *Richard Binfield*, *Joshua Brown*, *Isaac Bren*, *James Boorne*, *William Briant*, *William Batt*, *John Brown*, *John Boult*, *John Broad*, *George Boyer*, *Jane Bushnell*, *Thomas Berris*, *George Ball*, *Benjamin Champion*, *Austin Champion*, *Thomas Challis*, *George Cooper*, *John Cooper*, *John Clacy*, *Richard Chipperfield*, *John Cockell*, *John Cocks*, *Charles Cocks*, *Henry Deane*, *Thomas M'Lean Fenton*, *James Farrow*, *Thomas Forde*, *Jannet Fenton*, *James Fenton*, *George Gilbertson*, *Samuel Gostage*, *William Golding*, *Henry William Golding*, *Thomas Garrard*, *John Hook Green*, *Robert Harris*, *John Harris*, Banker, *George Higgs*, *Moses Hall*, *Thomas Hasell*, *John Harris*, *Priscilla Howell*, *Daniel Jones*, *Thomas Jones*, *Thomas Jesse*, *James Blackman Kemp*, *Sarah Kemp*, *Eliza Loring*, *Henry Finch Letchworth*, *Thomas Letchworth*, *Herbert Lewis*, *Edward Law*, *William Lane*, *James Loscombe*, *Mary Lewis*, *Nancy Lea*, the Reverend *George Lawrie*, the Reverend *Henry Hart Milman*, *Richard Rennett Mason*, *Mary Mestayer*, *John Maggs*, *Thomas Morris*, *Henry Millard*, *Edward Micklem*, *John May*, *William May*, *Matthew Nettherclift*, *William Osmond*, *Cornelius Poulton*, *John Winter Pigeon*, *Jonathan Sills Pigeon*, *Sarah Pittman*, *Elizabeth Poole*, *Charles Packer*, *William Quelch*, *James Quelch*, *Sarah D'Oyley*, *Thomas Lovelock*, *Thomas King*, *Thomas Richards*, *James Rusher*, *Samuel Richardson*, *Robert Raggett*, *Philip Rose*, *William Robinson*, *John Symonds*, *Charles Symonds*, *William Stephens*, *William Stone*, *Robert Snare*, *John Stamp*, *William Shaylor*, *Henry Smith*, *David Stone*, *Henry Stamp*, *John Treacher*, *George Treacher*, *Richard Tutty*, *James Tutty*, *John Tutty*, *William Tiley* the younger, *Anna Tagg*, *Henry Trendell*, *Thomas Trendell*, *James Trendell*, *Thomas N. Truss*, *Joshua Vines*, *Jabez Vines*, the Reverend Doctor *Valpy*, *Frederick Marcus Antoine Venua*, *John Yard Willats*, *Mary Richards White*, *Margaret Welton*, *Mary Williams*, *David Wilson*, *James Wilder*, *Edward Wilkins*, *William Wathington*, *Joseph Young*, *John Wallis Young*, and *Samuel Young*, and all and every such Person or Persons, Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, as shall or may from Time to Time, in such Manner as is herein-after mentioned, become a Proprietor or Proprietors of Shares in the Undertaking hereby established, and their respective Successors, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, shall be and they are hereby united into a Company for the Purpose of lighting with Gas the said Borough of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof according to the Provisions and Restrictions herein-after contained, and are hereby declared to be One Body Politic and Corporate by the Name of "The *Reading* Gas Light Company," and by that Name shall have perpetual Succession, and shall have a Common Seal, and by that Name shall and may sue and be sued, and prefer and prosecute any Bill or Bills of Indictment for any Felony, Misdemeanor, or other Offence punishable by the Laws of this Realm, and also shall have Power and Authority to purchase and hold any Lands, Buildings, and Hereditaments for the Use of the said Undertaking, without incurring any of the Penalties or Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain, and shall also have Power to sell, demise, or otherwise dispose of Lands, Buildings, and Hereditaments.

Name of the Company.

Power to contract with the Commissioners for lighting Reading.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company from Time to Time to enter into any Contract or Contracts or to agree with the said Commissioners for lighting with Gas the Streets, Ways, public Passages and Places in the said Borough of *Reading*, or any Part or Parts thereof, for any Term or Terms of Years, upon such Terms and

subject to such Regulations and Penalties as the said Commissioners and the said Company shall agree upon.

Power to contract for lighting the Parishes in Reading, of Whitley, Sonning, Early, and Tilehurst.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company from Time to Time to enter into any Contract or Contracts, or to agree with any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or any Person or Persons whomsoever, for lighting with Gas all or any Part or Parts of the Streets, Roads, Ways, public Passages and Places in the several Parishes, Townships, and Places of *St. Mary Reading*, *St. Lawrence Reading*, *St. Giles Reading*, *Whitley*, *Sonning*, *Early*, and *Tilehurst*, in the said County of *Berks*, or any of them, for any Term or Terms of Years, upon such Terms and subject to such Regulations and Penalties as may be agreed upon between the said Company and such Body or Bodies, Person or Persons respectively.

Company may contract for supplying private Houses, &c. with Gas.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company to enter into or make any Contract or Contracts or to agree with the said Commissioners, or with any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Person or Persons, for supplying with Gas any public Halls and Buildings, and any private Grounds and Places, and any Shops, Inns, Taverns, Manufactories, Warehouses, Dwelling Houses, and other Buildings, for lighting or warming the same, or for heating Stoves or Ovens for boiling, baking, and cooking therein, upon such Terms or for such Rents or Sums of Money as shall be agreed upon by the said Company and the respective Parties and Persons desirous of being supplied with Gas.

Previous Contracts to be binding on the Company.

V. And be it further enacted, That all Contracts which have been entered into by the said *Robert Harris*, *Charles Simonds*, *Benjamin Champion*, *John Harris*, *Edward Law*, *Thomas Letchworth*, and *William Stephens*, or any of them, or any of their Partners, for lighting with Gas any Streets, Roads, Ways, public Passages or Places, or lighting or supplying with Gas any Halls, Shops, or other Buildings, or any private Grounds or Places, within the said Borough of *Reading* or in the Neighbourhood thereof, shall be binding on all Persons who may have entered into such Contracts with the said *Robert Harris* and the other Persons herein-before named, or any of them, or any of their Partners, or on the said Company, and may be enforced against and by them in the same Manner to all Intents and Purposes as if this Act had been passed before such Contracts respectively were made, and the said Company had been Party thereto instead of the said *Robert Harris* and the other Persons herein-before named, or some or one of them, or their or some or one of their Partners.

Power to produce Gas and sell Products.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company to produce Gas from any Materials which they may think proper, and to sell and dispose of Tar, Pitch, Asphaltum, Ammoniacal Liquor, Essential Oil, and all and every other Product, Refuse, and Residuum arising or to be obtained from the Coal, Oil Tar, Pitch, or other Materials used for producing Gas, in such Manner as the said Company may think proper.

Company may make Works, and lay Pipes, &c.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, by their Servants,

vants, Agents, Workmen, and others, from Time to Time to make and erect such Retorts, Gasometers, Receivers, and other Buildings, Cisterns, Engines, Machines, and other Apparatus, Cuts, Drains, Sewers, Watercourses, Reservoirs, and other Works and Devices, and to sink and lay Pipes of such Construction and in such Manner as the said Company shall think necessary or proper for carrying the Purposes of this Act into execution; and also to break up the Soil and Pavement of any Streets, Roads, Lanes, and other Passages and Places, or any Part thereof, and to dig and sink Trenches and Drains, and lay Mains or Pipes, and put Stopcocks, Syphons, and Plugs or Branches from such Pipes in, under, across, and along such Places as aforesaid, and in such Manner as shall be necessary for the Purpose of carrying this Act into execution, or supplying any such Gas as aforesaid, and from Time to Time to alter the Position of, and to repair, relay, and maintain, such Pipes, Stopcocks, Syphons, and Plugs or Branches; also to carry, fit up, and furnish any Pipe or Pipes, Cocks or Branches, or other necessary Apparatus, from any Main or Pipe belonging to the said Company now laid or hereafter to be laid in any Street, Road, Lane, Passage, or Place, into or through any Hall, Shop, Inn, Tavern, Manufactory, Warehouse, Dwelling House, public or private Buildings, Ground, or Places, for the Purpose of supplying with Gas the same or any other such Hall, Building, or Place, or any public or private Lamp, from any such Mains or Pipes, and to erect and set up any Machine or other Apparatus necessary or requisite for securing to any Hall, public or private Building or Place, a proper and competent Supply of Gas, or for measuring and ascertaining the Extent of such Supply; and also to alter or amend any bad or imperfect Work which shall have been placed, or which shall be injured or damaged in such Hall, Building, or Place, and to do all such other Acts, Matters, and Things as the said Company shall from Time to Time think necessary and convenient for completing, amending, repairing, improving, supplying, and using the same.

Service Pipes to be kept fully charged with Gas.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Branch or Service Pipes which shall be put up by the said Company for lighting any public Lamps under any Contract or Agreement with the said Company shall be kept fully charged with Gas, and the Stopcocks shall be so formed and turned as not to impede or prevent the said Branch or Service Pipes being completely filled with Gas during the Time the said public Lamps shall be lighted.

Pavement, &c. not to be broken up without Notice.

IX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Part of the Soil or Pavement of any of the said Streets, Roads, Lanes, Passages, Places, Land, or Ground shall be broken up or opened, nor the Passage upon or over the same in any Manner obstructed, for any of the Purposes aforesaid, until the said Company, or their Clerk, Surveyor, or other Officer employed by them and acting under their Authority, shall have given Twelve Hours Notice thereof at the least, and not more than Three Days next before such breaking up or opening shall commence, by Writing under their or his Hands or Hand to the Surveyor of the said Commissioners where such Soil or Pavement shall be in the said Borough of *Reading* and where such Soil or Pavement shall not be within the said Borough of *Reading*, to One or more of the Surveyor or Surveyors of the Highways of the respective Townships or Districts in which such

Soil

Soil or Pavement shall be situate, either by giving such Notice personally to such Surveyor or Surveyors, or leaving the same at his or their respective Dwelling House or Dwelling Houses, or usual Place of Abode; and in such Notice there shall be specified the particular Place or Places wherein and the Day when such Soil or Pavement is intended to be broken and opened; and in case such Soil or Pavement shall be broken or opened by the said Company, or their Officer or Servant, or other Person acting under their Authority, without having given such Notice as aforesaid, the said Company shall for such Neglect and Default therein forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding the Sum of Forty Shillings, save and except in Cases of sudden Escape of Gas or other emergent Cause, in which Cases the said Company shall give the earliest possible Notice thereof in manner aforesaid, and in default thereof shall suffer the Penalty aforesaid.

Pipes, &c. not to be carried through private Property, &c. without Consent.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to authorize or empower the said Company to carry or lay any Pipe or Pipes, Cocks or Branches from any Mains or Pipes, into or through any private Lands or Grounds, (except into or through the Soil and Pavement of any Streets, Roads, Lanes, and other Passages and Places as aforesaid,) or against, into, or through any Dwelling House or Houses, Manufactory or Manufactories, public or private Buildings, or to continue the same without the Consent in Writing of the Owner and Occupier of such Land or Ground, Dwelling House or Houses, Manufactory or Manufactories, public or private Building, or to enter into or upon any private Lands or Grounds, House or Building, without the Consent in Writing of the Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers of such Lands or Grounds, House or Building, for that Purpose first had and obtained.

Company to reinstate the Pavements, &c. after laying or altering Pipes.

XI. And be it further enacted, That when and as often as the said Company shall have broken up or removed the Stones, Flagging, Pavement, Ground, or Soil in or of any Street, Road, Lane, Passage, Place, Land, or Ground, or any Part thereof, this Company shall and they are hereby required without the least Delay, at their own Costs and Charges, to relay, reinstate, and make good such Pavement, Flagging, Ground, or Soil in a good and substantial Manner to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners or the Surveyor of the said Commissioners, or of the respective Surveyors or other Person or Persons having the Control, Direction, or Superintendence, or being the Owner or Occupier of such Pavement, Flagging, Ground, or Soil respectively, as well when the same shall have been broken up or removed for the Purpose of first laying down as for the Purpose of examining, searching, repairing, relaying, or amending any Mains, Pipes, Cocks, or Plugs in pursuance of this Act; and the said Company shall, at their own Costs and Charges, also forthwith carry or cause to be carried away all surplus Earth, Filth, and Rubbish; and unless the said Works respectively shall be completed during the Day on which the same respectively shall be commenced, during the Time that such Works are carrying on, and until such Pavement, Ground, or Soil shall be reinstated and repaired as aforesaid, the said Company shall provide, set up, and continue necessary Lights between Sunset and Sunrise, and otherwise guard the said Works, so as to prevent any Accident, Damage, or Inconvenience happening to Passengers, Cattle, or Carriages;

riages; and if after such Pavements, Ground, or Soil, or any of them, shall have been repaired or made good by the said Company, (or in case of their Default the same shall be done by the said Surveyor, Surveyors, or other Person or Persons herein-after mentioned,) the same shall afterwards within Six Calendar Months give way, settle, or lower, or require relaying or repairing, in consequence of such Pavements, Streets, or Roads, Places, Land, or Ground, having been broken up for the Purpose of carrying this Act into execution, then and in such Case the same shall again from Time to Time, as often as may be necessary during the said Six Calendar Months, be forthwith repaired and relayed by and at the Expence of the said Company; and in case the said Company shall make neglect or default in reinstating and making good such Pavement, Ground, or Soil as aforesaid, or in removing any Rubbish to be occasioned as aforesaid, or in placing, setting up, and continuing such Lights, and otherwise guarding the said Works, so as to prevent Accidents, Damage, and Inconvenience to Passengers, Cattle, and Carriages as aforesaid, then and in every such Case the said Company shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds for every Day the same shall so continue; and it shall be lawful for such Surveyor or Surveyors, or other Person or Persons respectively, having such Control, Direction, or Superintendence, or being such Owner or Occupier as aforesaid, to reinstate, repair, and make good such Pavement, Ground, or Soil, and carry away all Rubbish to be occasioned as aforesaid, and during the Time that such Works are carried on to provide and continue such necessary Lights and Guards as aforesaid, and the Expences thereof shall be paid by the said Company or their Treasurer to such Surveyor or Surveyors, or other Person or Party so doing or performing any such Matter or Thing as aforesaid; and in default of Payment thereof within Twenty-one Days next after Demand thereof in Writing shall have been made by or on the Behalf of such Surveyor or Surveyors, or such other Person or Persons as aforesaid, Proof being made thereof by the Oath of One credible Witness before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, who shall thereupon order the same to be paid, all such Expences so to be occasioned as aforesaid shall and may be recovered, for the Use of such Surveyor, Surveyors, Person, or Party, in the Manner herein-after directed for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices to be paid for any Expences payable by the said Company.

Commissioners of Pavement empowered to require Pipes, &c. to be altered.

XII. And be it further enacted, That if, for the Purposes of the Act herein-before mentioned, or any other Act or Acts in force for the Time being for paving, lighting, or improving the said Borough of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof, or supplying the same with Water, it shall at any Time or Times be deemed necessary or expedient by the Commissioners for paving, lighting, and improving the said Borough to require the said Company to raise, sink, or otherwise alter the Situation of any of the Mains, Pipes, Stopcocks, Plugs, Syphons, or Branches which shall be laid down for the Purposes aforesaid, the said Company shall, at their own Expence, within Three Calendar Months next after being required so to do by Notice in Writing to them given by the said Commissioners, signed by any Two of them or their Clerk, raise, sink, or alter such Mains, Pipes, Stopcocks, Plugs, Syphons, or Branches, according to such Notice, in such Manner and in such Place or Places as

the said Commissioners shall think right and proper; and in default thereof it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners or their Surveyor, or any other Person or Persons acting by their Order or under their Authority, to cause such Mains, Pipes, Stopcocks, Plugs, Syphons, or Branches to be raised, sunk, or altered, and the reasonable Costs and Charges for doing the same shall immediately thereafter be paid by the said Company or their Treasurer: Provided nevertheless, that if such reasonable Costs and Charges shall not be paid within Thirty Days next after Demand shall be made by or on behalf of such Commissioners, (Proof of such Demand being made by the Oath of One credible Witness before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, who shall thereupon order the same to be paid,) all such reasonable Costs and Charges shall and may be recovered in the Manner hereinafter directed for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices of the Peace to be paid for any Expences payable by the said Company, and such Costs and Charges shall be paid to such Commissioners or their Treasurer.

Damage occasioned by raising or altering Pipes to be made good to the Company.

XIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if, by the raising, sinking, or altering any of the said Mains, Pipes, Stopcocks, Plugs, Syphons, or Branches, any Damage or Injury shall be wilfully or negligently done to the same by such Commissioners, or their Servants or Workmen, then and in every such Case Notice thereof shall be given by the said Company to the Commissioners or their Clerk within Twenty-one Days next afterwards, and before any Reparation thereof shall begin to be made by the said Company; and from and after such Notice the said Damage or Injury shall be repaired and made good by the said Company themselves as soon as Circumstances will permit, and the Costs, Charges, and Expences thereof shall be paid by such Commissioners or their Treasurer to the said Company, or their Treasurer or Treasurers; and in case they cannot agree touching the Amount thereof the same shall be ascertained and settled by Two Justices of the Peace for the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, who are hereby authorized to hear and determine the same, and their Determination therein shall be final and conclusive; and such Damages and Expences, together with the Costs and Charges of ascertaining and recovering the same, may, in default of Payment thereof, be recovered from such Commissioners, together with Costs of Suit, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* by Action of Debt or on the Case: Provided also, that no Action at Law shall be brought unless such Damages and Expences shall amount to the Sum of Twenty Pounds.

Company to alter or remove Mains on private Property on Notice.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That in case the Soil or Ground of any private Road, Way, or Ground shall be broken up for the Purpose of laying any Main or Pipe along, under, or across the same, with the Consent of the Owner or Owners of the Soil for the Time being, and after the same shall have been so laid and placed such Owner or Owners shall be desirous of having the same altered or removed or taken away, and of such his, her, or their Desire shall give Notice in Writing to the said Company, then and in every such Case the said Company shall, at the Costs and Charges of the Party or Parties requiring the same, within Two Days after Receipt of such Notice, alter and vary the Position of such Pipe or Pipes, and relay the same, or remove and take away, or

cause

cause to be removed and taken away, all or any such Pipes or Mains as shall have been so introduced and laid therein or thereupon; and in default thereof, but not otherwise, it shall be lawful for such Owner and Owners, or Occupier or Occupiers, or any other Person or Persons acting under his or their Authority, to cause such Pipes or Mains, or any of them, to be altered or removed and taken away (as the Case may require), but so that no Damage be done thereby to the said Company, and so that the said Company be not thereby prevented from or obstructed in lighting any public or private Lamps, unless such Damage or Obstruction be unavoidable.

Company to remove Branch Pipes, &c. on private Property, upon Notice given.

XV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case any Pipe, Cock, or Branch shall be fixed, carried, or laid from any Main or Pipe of the said Company into or through or against any Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings for the Purpose of supplying with Gas the same or any other Dwelling House, Warehouse, or other Buildings, in pursuance of this Act, and the Owner or Owners or Occupier or Occupiers of any such Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings, into or through or against which such Pipe, Cock, or Branch shall be fixed, carried, or laid, shall be desirous that the same Pipe, Cock, or Branch shall be altered or removed or taken away, and of such his, her, or their Desire shall give Notice in Writing to the said Company, then and in every such Case the said Company shall, at the Costs and Charges of the Party or Parties requiring the same, within Ten Days after Receipt of such Notice, alter or remove and take away, or cause to be altered or removed and taken away, all or any such Pipes, Cocks, and Branches as shall have been so introduced and laid therein or thereupon from any such Main or Pipe of the said Company as aforesaid; and in default thereof it shall be lawful for such Owner or Owners or Occupier or Occupiers, or any other Person or Persons acting under his, her, or their Authority, to cause such Pipes, Cocks, and Branches to be altered or removed and taken away, as the Case may require.

Company to remove Pipes when Tenants quit, if required.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That on the Expiration or Determination of the Tenancy or Tenancies of any Occupier or Occupiers of any Dwelling House or Building in which any Gas Pipe or Branch Pipe shall be laid, placed, or fixed, or within Ten Days after receiving Notice in Writing from or on behalf of the Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers, or the succeeding Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers of any such Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings, that such Tenancy or Tenancies will expire and determine, or is expired and determined, and requiring the said Company to remove any such Pipes, Cocks, or Branches, the said Company shall at their own Expence remove, take, and carry away, or cause to be removed, taken, and carried away, any Pipe or Pipes, Cocks or Branches, from any Main Pipe or Main Pipes which shall have been introduced or laid by the said Company in or through any such Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings as aforesaid, and also repair and make good such Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings where the same shall have been so introduced, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding; and in default thereof it shall be lawful for such Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers, or such new Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers, as the Case may require, or any other Person or Persons acting

acting under his or her or their respective Authority or Authorities, to cause such Pipes, Cocks, or Branches to be removed, taken, and carried away, and the Dwelling House or Houses or other Buildings where the same shall have been introduced to be repaired and made good, the reasonable Costs and Charges attending which shall be immediately paid by the said Company, or their Treasurer or Treasurers, to such Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers, as the Case may require; and if the same Costs and Charges be not paid within Twenty-eight Days next after Demand shall be made by such Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers, (Proof of such Demand being made by the Oath of One credible Witness before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, who shall thereupon order the same to be paid,) such Costs and Charges shall and may be recovered in the Manner herein-after directed for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices to be paid for any Expences payable by the said Company.

For the Protection of Water and Gas Pipes.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That if in carrying into execution any of the Powers or Authorities by this Act given or granted any Injury or Damage shall be done to any of the Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, or Things for the Supply of Water or Gas in or for the said Borough and Neighbourhood, or any Part or Parts thereof, of or belonging to any Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or any Person or Persons, either by removing or disturbing the Ground or Soil wherein or whereon the same is or are laid or placed, or by the Compression and subsequent settling or lowering of the same at any Time or Times afterwards, or by any other Means whatsoever, the said Company shall, at their own Expence, Costs, and Charges, within Three Hours next after Notice in Writing to them given by such Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or any Person or Persons having the Care or Management of such Pipes respectively, or by the Clerk for the Time being of the said Commissioners for paving, lighting, or improving the said Borough of *Reading*, proceed to cause such Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, and Things to be well and effectually repaired and amended; and in default or neglect thereof it shall be lawful for the Person or Persons having the Care or Management of such Pipes, and he and they is and are hereby authorized and empowered, to cause such Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, and Things so injured or damaged as aforesaid to be effectually repaired, amended, and made good; and the reasonable Costs, Charges, Damages, and Expences attending the same, together with the reasonable Value of the Gas or Water lost, or other incidental Damage which may arise in consequence of any Injury so done, shall be paid and defrayed by the said Company or their Treasurer; and if they cannot agree touching the Amount or Value thereof the same shall be ascertained and settled and ordered to be paid by some Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, and be recovered in the Manner herein-after directed for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices to be paid for any Damage done by the said Company.

Gas Pipes to be laid at a certain Distance from Water Pipes,

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Pipes or other Conduits already laid or used by the said Company for the Conveyance of Gas shall, and also all and every the Pipes and other Conduits which may at any Time hereafter be laid or used for the Conveyance of Gas

and in a particular Manner.

Gas by the said Company in, through, under, along, across, or round any Street, Road, Lane, or other public Passage or Place within the Limits of this Act, be laid at the greatest practicable Distance from the nearest Part of any Water Pipe already laid down or hereafter to be laid down by the said *Reading* Waterworks Company or their Successors; or by any Company of Proprietors, or Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, for the Conveyance of Water in, under, through, along, across, or round any of the said Streets, Roads, Lanes, or other public Passages or Places, and whenever the Width of the Carriageway will allow thereof at the Distance of Four Feet at least from the nearest Part of any such Water Pipe, unless in Cases where it shall be unavoidably necessary to lay the Gas Main Pipes across any of such Water Pipes, in which Cases the said Gas Pipes shall be laid over and above such Water Pipes at the greatest practicable Distance therefrom, and shall form therewith as near as possible a Right Angle, and shall be laid with Bearers and Supporters so as to prevent the Gas Pipes from falling or resting on the Water Pipes; and in such Cases the said Gas Pipes so crossing any such Water Pipes shall be at least Nine Feet in Length, so that no Joint of any of the said Gas Pipes shall be nearer to any Part of any such Water Pipes than Four Feet at least; and in laying down the said Gas Pipes the said Company shall in no Case join Two or more Gas Pipes together previous to their being laid in the Trench, but shall lay each Pipe as near as may be in its Place in the Trench, and shall in such Trench form the Jointing with the other Pipes to be added thereto with proper and sufficient Materials, and shall also make and keep all and every such Pipes, and all Pipes connected or communicating therewith, and all the Screws, Joints, Inlets, Apertures, or Openings therein respectively Air-tight, and in every respect prevent the said Gas from escaping therefrom and from any Part thereof, upon pain of forfeiting for every such Offence (if the said Company shall neglect or refuse to make such Gas Pipes Air-tight within Twenty-four Hours after Notice thereof given to them in Writing,) the Sum of Ten Pounds.

For the further Protection of Water Pipes.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That if, in carrying into execution any of the Powers or Authorities by this Act given or granted, any Injury or Damage shall be done or committed to any of the Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, or Things of or belonging to the *Reading* Waterworks Company, either by removing or disturbing the Ground or Soil wherein or whereon the same is or are laid or placed, or by the Compression and subsequent settling or lowering of the same at any Time or Times afterwards, or by any other Means whatsoever, the said *Reading* Gas Light Company shall, at their own Expence, Costs, and Charges, within Three Days next after Notice to them given by the *Reading* Waterworks Company by Writing under the Hand of their Clerk or other Officer, cause such Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, and Things to be well and effectually repaired and amended; and in default or neglect thereof it shall be lawful for the said *Reading* Waterworks Company, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, to cause such Pipes, Branches, Apparatus, Materials, and Things so injured or damaged as aforesaid to be effectually repaired, amended, and made good, and the reasonable Costs, Charges, Damages, and Expences attending the same shall be paid and defrayed by the said *Reading* Gas Light Company or their Treasurer; and if they cannot agree touching the Amount or Value

thereof, the same shall be ascertained and settled and ordered to be paid by such Justice or Justices of the Peace for the Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, in the Manner herein-after described for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices of the Peace to be paid for any Damages done by the said Company.

For preventing Contamination of Water.

XX. And be it further enacted, That whenever the Water to be supplied by the said *Reading* Waterworks Company, or their Successors, or by any Company of Proprietors, or Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or by any other Party or Person, by Pipes or Conduits in, under, through, along, across, or round any of the said Streets, Roads, Lanes, or other public Passages or Places within the said Borough of *Reading* or the Neighbourhood thereof, or the Water or Waters of any Well or Pond belonging to or used by any Party or Person or Persons whomsoever, shall be contaminated or affected by the Gas of the said Company, they shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds; and in every such Case the said Company shall, within Twenty-four Hours next after Notice thereof in Writing, signed by any Inhabitant of the said Borough or Neighbourhood, or any Person or Persons whomsoever, to be left at the usual Office or Place of transacting Business of the said Company, cause the most proper and effectual Measures to be taken to stop and prevent Gas from escaping from their Works, Mains, or Pipes, or contaminating or affecting any such Water; and in case the said Company shall not, within Twenty-four Hours next after every such Notice so left as aforesaid, effectually stop and prevent Gas from so escaping, and wholly and satisfactorily remove the Cause of every such Complaint, and prevent all and every such Contamination whereof Notice shall be given as aforesaid, then and in every such Case the said Company shall, on each and every Complaint whereof Notice shall be given as aforesaid, forfeit and pay, over and above the before-mentioned Penalty of Twenty Pounds, the Sum of Ten Pounds for every Day during which such Water shall be and remain contaminated, tainted, or affected by such Gas.

For ascertaining if the Water be contaminated.

XXI. And whereas it may be or become a Question, upon such Complaint as aforesaid, whether any such Water be contaminated or affected by the Gas of the said Company; be it therefore enacted, That in every such Case it shall be lawful to and for any Body or Bodies or Person or Persons, being Proprietor or Proprietors of any Waterworks, Well, or Pond, or other Person or Persons using or consuming any such Water, after giving Twenty-four Hour's Notice in Writing to the said Commissioners or their Surveyor, or to the Surveyor or Surveyors under him, or Persons under whose Control or Superintendence any public Streets, Roads, Lanes, or other public Passages and Places may be, or to the Party or Person having the Property of or in any Ground, Stones, Soil, or Pavement, as the Case may be, and having an Order signed by any Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks*, which Order such Justice and Justices is and are hereby required to grant on Oath made before him or them that such Water is believed to be contaminated, to dig to and about and search and examine the Mains, Pipes, Conduits, and Apparatus of the said Company for the Purpose of ascertaining whether such Contamination proceeds from or be occasioned by the Gas of the said Company; and if it shall appear that the said Water

has

has been contaminated by any Escape of Gas of the said Company, the Costs and Expences of the said Digging, Search, and Repair of the Pavement of the Street or Streets, or other public Place, or such Part or Parts thereof as shall be so taken up or disturbed, and the filling in of the Soil so broken up, shall be borne and paid by the said Company; which Costs and Expences shall be ascertained and determined, if necessary, and ordered to be paid by such Justice or Justices, and be recovered in the Manner herein-after directed for the Recovery of any Sum of Money ordered by any Justice or Justices to be paid for any Expences payable by the said Company: Provided always, that if upon such Examination it shall appear that such Contamination has not arisen from any such Escape of Gas from any of the Mains, Pipes, or Conduits of the Company, then and in such Case the said Inhabitant or Party or Person so complaining shall bear and pay all the Costs and Expences of such Examination, Repair, and Search, and shall also forthwith pay and make good to the said Commissioners or their Surveyor, or the Surveyor or Surveyors or other Person or Persons respectively under whose Control or Superintendence any such public Streets, Roads, Lanes, and other public Passages and Places, or any Part thereof, shall be, or to the Party or Person having the Property of or in the Ground, Stones, Soil, or Pavement (as the Case may be) which shall or may have been so broken up for the Purpose aforesaid, all Costs, Charges, and Expences which shall or may be incurred by such Commissioners, Surveyors, or Parties or Persons respectively, in repairing, restoring, and making good any public Street, Road, Lane, or other public Passage or Place, or any Part thereof, which may have been so broken up; and such Inhabitant or Party or Person so complaining shall also in the Case aforesaid forthwith pay and make good to the said Company any Loss, Injury, or Damage which may be occasioned to the said Mains, Pipes, Conduits, or Apparatus of the said Company in and by such Search and Examination, the Amount of such Injury, Loss, or Damage to be ascertained and determined and recovered in the said Cases respectively in like Manner as herein-after is directed with respect to Sums of Money to be paid to the said Company by any aforesaid Disputant for Damages or Costs.

For stopping the Escape of Gas.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That whenever any Gas shall be found to escape from any of the Pipes which shall be laid down or set up by the said Company the said Company shall at their own Expence, immediately after receiving Notice by Parol or in Writing of any such Escape of Gas from any Person or Persons whomsoever, cause the most speedy and effectual Measures to be taken to stop and prevent such Gas from escaping; and in case the said Company shall not, within Twenty-four Hours next after such Notice by Parol or in Writing being given of any such Escape of Gas, effectually stop and prevent the Gas from escaping, and wholly and satisfactorily remove the Cause of Complaint, then and in every such Case the said Company shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds for each and every Day after the Expiration of Twenty-four Hours from the Time of giving any such Notice during which the Gas shall be suffered to escape as aforesaid.

Power to convey Washings.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company, with the Consent of the said Commissioners or their Surveyor, or

or of the Surveyor or Surveyors or other Person or Persons having the Control, Direction, or Superintendence of the Pavement, Ground, or Soil of any Street, Road, Lane, Passage, or Place, Land or Ground, to lay Iron Pipes of such Dimensions and in such Manner as they shall think expedient under the said Streets, Roads, Lanes, Passages, and Places, for the Purpose of carrying off to Cesspools or otherwise the Washings or other Waste Liquids which shall arise or be produced in the Prosecution of the said Gas Works, or in the Manufacture or Process of making or procuring Gas.

Penalty for conveying Washings into any River, &c.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That if the said Company, or any Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or any Person or Persons making, furnishing, or supplying any Gas used, burnt, or consumed within the said Borough of *Reading* or the Neighbourhood thereof, shall at any Time empty, drain, or convey, or cause or suffer to be emptied, drained, or conveyed, or to run or flow, any Washings or other Waste Liquids, or any noisome or offensive Liquids, Substances, or Things whatsoever, which shall arise or be produced in the Prosecution of any Gas Works, or in the Manufacture or Process of making or procuring Gas, into any River, Brook, or Running Stream, Reservoir, Canal, Aqueduct, Waterway, Feeder, Pond, Springhead, or Well, into any Drain, Sewer, or Ditch communicating therewith, or do or cause to be done any other Annoyance, Act, or Thing to the Water contained in any such River, Brook, or Running Stream, Reservoir, Canal, Aqueduct, Feeder, Pond, Springhead, Well, Drain, Sewer, or Ditch, whereby the said Water or any Part thereof shall or may be soiled, fouled, or corrupted, then and in every such Case the said Company, Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or other Person or Persons as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence the Sum of Two hundred Pounds; and such Penalty or Forfeiture shall and may be sued for and recovered, together with full Cost of Suit, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Plaint, Suit, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, Privilege, Wager of Law, nor more than One Imparlance shall be allowed, and the whole thereof shall be paid to the Person or Persons who shall inform or sue for the same: Provided always, that no such Penalty or Forfeiture shall be recoverable unless the same be sued for within Six Calendar Months from the Time that such Annoyance, Nuisance, Injury, Damage, Act, or Thing shall have ceased and determined: Provided also, that over and above and in addition to the said Penalty of Two hundred Pounds, (and whether such Penalty shall have been sued for or recovered or not,) in case any of the said Washings or other Waste Liquids, or noisome or offensive Liquids, Substances, or Things, shall be emptied, drained, conducted, or conveyed, or caused or suffered to run or flow, in manner aforesaid, into any River, Brook or Running Stream, or any Reservoir, Canal, Aqueduct, Waterway, Feeder, Pond, Springhead, or Well, or into any Drain, Sewer, or Ditch communicating therewith, or any such Annoyance, Act, or Thing shall be done or caused to be done as aforesaid, and Notice thereof in Writing shall have been given by any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or Person or Persons whomsoever, to the said Company, or Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or other Person or Persons as aforesaid, and the said Company, or Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or Person or Persons aforesaid, shall not, within Twenty-four Hours after

after such Notice shall have been given to them or him as aforesaid, stop, hinder, and prevent all and every such Washings, Waste Liquids, or noisome or offensive Liquids, Substances, or Things, from being emptied, drained, conducted, or conveyed, or from running or flowing, in manner aforesaid, and every such other Annoyance, Nuisance, Injury, Damage, Act, or Thing from being done as aforesaid, then and in every such Case the said Company, or Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, Person or Persons whomsoever, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds for every Day such Washings, Waste Liquids, or noisome or offensive Liquids, Substances, or Things, shall be so emptied, drained, conducted, or conveyed, or caused or suffered to run or flow, in manner aforesaid, or such other Annoyance, Act, or Thing shall be so done or caused to be done as aforesaid; and such last-mentioned Penalty shall and may be recovered and levied in such and the like Manner as any other Penalty or Forfeiture is in and by this Act directed to be recovered and levied, and shall be paid to the Informer, or to the Person or Persons who, in the Judgment of the Justice or Justices before whom the Conviction shall take place, shall have sustained any Annoyance, Injury, or Damage by any Act so done or committed.

Power to contract for Purchase of Land and Buildings.

XXV. And in order to enable the said Company to carry the Purposes of this Act into execution, be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company and they are hereby empowered from Time to Time to treat, contract, and agree for the absolute Purchase of any Lands, Buildings, Tenements, or Hereditaments within the said Borough of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof which the said Company shall deem requisite for the Purposes of this Act, and to hold to them and their Successors and Assigns such Lands, Buildings, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and any Term, Right, and Interest therein so purchased, and also to sell, either by public Auction or private Contract, and dispose of such Lands, Buildings, Tenements, and Hereditaments, or any Part or Parts thereof, and again from Time to Time to purchase and hold other Lands, Buildings, Tenements, or Hereditaments which the said Company shall deem more eligible for the Purposes aforesaid, as they shall think proper, and afterwards to sell and dispose of the same as aforesaid, without incurring or being subject or liable to any of the Penalties or Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain, or of any other Law or Statute whatsoever: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for the said Company to purchase or hold at any one Time a larger Quantity of Land than Two Statute Acres.

Limiting the Quantity of Land.

Bodies Politic empowered to sell.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for all Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Ecclesiastical or Lay, Aggregate or Sole, and for all Feoffees and Trustees for charitable or other Purposes, and for all Tenants for Life, or for any Term or Terms of Years absolute, or determinable on any Life or Lives, or for any other partial or qualified Estate or Interest, Husbands, Guardians, Committees for Lunatics and Idiots, Executors, Administrators, and other Trustees whomsoever, not only for and on behalf of themselves, their Heirs and Successors, but also for and on behalf of their Cestuique Trusts respectively, either Infants or Issue unborn, Lunatics, Idiots, or Femes Covert, or any other Person or Persons, and also for and on behalf of all or any Person or Persons entitled in Reversion, Remainder, or Expectancy, or

for any future Interest after them, if such Person or Persons or any of them be incapacitated, and for and on behalf of their Wives, Wards, Lunatics, and Idiots respectively, and to and for all other Persons whomsoever who are or shall be seised, possessed of, or interested in any Buildings, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of what Nature or Tenure soever, or any Part thereof, which shall be thought necessary by the said Company to be purchased for the Uses and Purposes of this Act (such Lands not exceeding Two Statute Acres), to contract and agree with the said Company for the Sale thereof or of any Part thereof, and to sell and convey the same or any Part thereof to the said Company for the Purposes of this Act; and all Conveyances which shall be made by virtue of this Act shall be good, valid, and effectual to all Intents and Purposes.

Form of Conveyance.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That all Sales, Conveyances, or Assurances of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments to be made to the said Company and their Successors shall be made in the Form or to the Effect following, or as near thereto as the Number of Parties and other Circumstances of the Case will admit; (that is to say,)

'I or We [*as the Case may be*], of in consideration of the Sum of paid to me [*or* us, *or* into the Bank of *England*, *as the Case may be*,] by the *Reading* Gas Light Company, established under or by virtue of an Act passed in the Year of the Reign of King *William* the Fourth, intituled [*here insert the Title of this Act*], do hereby grant and release [*or* assign, *as the Case may be*,] to the said Company and their Successors all [*here describe the Premises to be conveyed*], and all my [*or* our] Right, Title, and Interest in and to the same and every Part thereof, to hold to the said Company and their Successors and Assigns for ever [*or* (*as the Case may be*) during all the Remainder of my [*or* our] Term, Estate, or Interest in the said Premises.] In witness whereof I [*or* we] have hereunto set my Hand and Seal [*or* our Hands and Seals, *or* our Common Seal, *as the Case may be*,] this Day of in the Year of our Lord .'

And every such Sale, Conveyance, and Assurance so made shall be good, valid, and effectual to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, and shall operate to merge all Terms of Years attendant by express Declaration or by Construction of Law on the Estate or Interest thereby conveyed, and to bar all Right and Title to Dower, and all Estates Tail, and all other Estates in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or Expectancy, and all Rights, Titles, Limitations, Trusts, Conditions, Terms, and Interests whatsoever of and in the same.

Not to purchase more than once from incapacitated Persons.

XXVIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case the said Company shall, by virtue of the Powers and Provisions of this Act, purchase the aforesaid Two Statute Acres of Land, or any Part thereof, of or from any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Feoffees or Trustees for charitable or other Purposes, Tenants for Life, or for any other partial or qualified Estate or Interest, Husbands, Guardians, Committees, Executors, Administrators, or other Trustees, or any other Person or Persons who could not sell and convey

convey the same to the said Company without the Authority of this Act, and in case the said Company shall afterwards sell or convey the Whole or any Part of such Land, then it shall not be lawful for the same or any other Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, Trustees or Feoffees in Trust for charitable or other Purposes, Tenants for Life or for any other partial or qualified Estate or Interest, Husbands, Guardians, Committees, Executors, Administrators, or other Trustees, or other Person or Persons who could not sell and convey the same to the said Company without the Authority of this Act, to sell to the said Company any other Lands in lieu or instead of the Land so sold and disposed of.

Application of Compensation Money when amounting to 300*l.* or upwards.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That if any Money agreed to be paid for any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or any Estate or Estates, Interest or Interests therein, purchased by virtue of the Powers of this Act, shall be payable to any Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or Person or Persons who could not convey the same Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Estate or Interest, without the Authority of this Act, such Money shall, in case the same shall amount to or exceed the Sum of Two hundred Pounds, with all convenient Speed be paid into the Bank of *England* in the Name and with the Privity of the Accountant General of the Court of Exchequer, to be placed to his Account *ex parte* "The *Reading* Gas Light Company," pursuant to the Directions of an Act passed in the First Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King
1 G. 4. c. 35. *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for the better securing Monies and Effects paid into the Court of Exchequer at* Westminster *on account of the Suitors of the said Court, and for the Appointment of an Accountant General and Two Masters of the said Court, and for other Purposes*, and the General Orders of the said Court, without Fee or Reward; to the Intent that such Money shall be applied, under the Direction and with the Approbation of the said Court, to be signified by an Order made upon a Petition to be preferred in a summary Way by the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, who would have been entitled to the Rents and Profits of the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in the Purchase or Redemption of the Land Tax, or in or towards the Payment or Discharge of any Debt or Debts, or such other Incumbrance, or Part thereof, as the said Court shall authorize to be paid, affecting the same Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or Part or Parts thereof, or affecting other Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments standing settled therewith to the same or the like Uses, Intents, and Purposes; or where such Money shall not be so applied, then the same shall be laid out and invested, under and with the like Direction and Approbation of the said Court, in the Purchase of other Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, which shall be conveyed and settled to, for, and upon such and the like Uses, Trusts, Intents, and Purposes, and in the same Manner, as the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments which shall be purchased for the Purposes of this Act stood and were settled and limited, or such of them as at the Time of making such Conveyance and Settlement shall be existing undetermined and capable of taking effect; and in the meantime and until such Purchase shall be made the said Money shall, by Order of the said Court, upon Application being made thereto as aforesaid, be invested by the said Accountant General in his Name in the Purchase of Three Pounds *per Centum* Consolidated or Three Pounds *per Centum* Reduced Bank Annuities,

or

or in Government or Real Securities; and in the meantime, and until the said Bank Annuities or Government or Real Securities shall be ordered by the said Court to be sold for the Purposes aforesaid, the Dividends and annual Produce of the said Consolidated or Reduced Bank Annuities or Government or Real Securities shall from Time to Time be paid, by Order of the said Court, to the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, who would for the Time being have been entitled to the Rents and Profits of the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments so hereby directed to be purchased in case such Purchase or Settlement were then actually made.

Application of Compensation Money when less than 200*l.* and exceeding 20*l.*

XXX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if any Money agreed to be paid for any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or any Estate or Estates, Interest or Interests therein, purchased by virtue of the Powers of this Act, shall be payable to any Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, who could not convey the same Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Estate or Interest, without the Authority of this Act, shall be less than the Sum of Two hundred Pounds, and shall exceed or be equal to the Sum of Twenty Pounds, then and in all such Cases the same shall, at the Option of the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, for the Time being entitled to the Rents and Profits of the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, or Parts, Estates, or Interests so purchased, or of his, her, or their Guardian or Guardians, Committee or Committees, in case of Infancy or Lunacy, to be signed in Writing under their respective Hands, be paid into the Bank of *England* in the Name and with the Privity of the said Accountant General of the Court of Exchequer, and be placed to his Account as aforesaid, in order to be applied in manner herein-before directed; or otherwise the same shall be paid, at the like Option, to Two Trustees, to be named by the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, making such Option, and approved of by Three or more of the Managers of the said Company, such Nomination and Approval to be signified by Writing under the Hands of the nominating and approving Parties, in order that such Principal Money and the Dividends to arise thereon may be applied in manner herein-before directed, so far as the Case shall be applicable, without obtaining or being required to obtain the Direction or Approbation of the said Court.

Application thereof when not exceeding 20*l.*

XXXI. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That where such Money so to be paid as last before mentioned shall not exceed or amount to the Sum of Twenty Pounds, then and in all such Cases the same shall be applied to the Use of the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, who would for the Time being have been entitled to the Rents and Profits of the Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Parts, Estates, and Interests, so to be purchased for the Purposes of this Act, in such Manner as the Managers of the said Company, or any Three or more of them, shall think fit, or in case of Infancy, Idiotcy, or Lunacy, then to his, her, or their Guardian or Guardians, Committee or Committees, to and for the Use and Benefit of such Person or Persons so entitled respectively.

In case of disputed Titles.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That where any Question shall arise touching the Title of any Body or Person to any Money to be paid into the Bank of *England* in the Name and with the Privity of the said Accountant General of the Court of Exchequer, in pursuance of this

Act, for the Purchase of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or of any Share, Estate, Right, or Interest in any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments to be purchased in pursuance of this Act; or to any Bank Annuities or Government or Real Securities, the Person or Persons who shall have been in Possession of such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Share or Shares, at the Time of such Purchase, and all Persons claiming under such Person or Persons, or under the Possession of such Person or Persons, shall be deemed and taken to have been lawfully entitled to such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Share or Shares, according to such Possession, until the contrary shall be shown to the Satisfaction of the said Court; and the Dividends or Interests of the Bank Annuities or Government or Real Securities to be purchased with such Money, and also the Capital of such Bank Annuities or Government or Real Securities, shall be paid, applied, and disposed of accordingly, unless it shall be made appear to the said Court that such Possession was a wrongful Possession, and that some other Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, was or were lawfully entitled to such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, Share or Shares, or to some Estate or Interest therein.

Expences of Purchases may be allowed by the Court in certain Cases.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That where, by reason of any Disability or Incapacity of any Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, entitled to any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments to be purchased under the Authority of this Act, the Purchase Money for the same shall be required to be paid into the said Court of Exchequer, or to be applied in the Purchase of other Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments to be settled to the like Uses in pursuance of this Act, it shall be lawful for the said Court to order the reasonable Expences of all Purchases from Time to Time to be made in pursuance of this Act, and also the Reinvestment of the Purchase Money thereof in Land, or other Disposition of the same, to be paid by the said Company, who shall from Time to Time pay such Sums of Money for such Purposes as the said Court shall direct.

On Payment of Purchase Money, Premises to vest in the Company.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That upon the Payment of the Money agreed to be paid for the Purchase of such Lands, Messuages, Buildings, Tenements, or Hereditaments by the said Company to the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, respectively entitled to such Money, or their Agents, or upon Payment thereof into the Bank of *England* for the Purpose of being disposed of in manner herein directed (as the Case may be), all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Use, Trust, Property, Claim, and Demand in Law or in Equity of the Body or Bodies and Person or Persons respectively to whom or for whose Use the same shall be paid into or out of such Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and of all Person or Persons for or in whose Behalf they are authorized by this Act to sell the same, shall vest in the said Company and their Successors for ever for the Purposes of this Act.

Sale of Land not wanted.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company from Time to Time and they are hereby required, within Seven Years after the passing of this Act, to sell and dispose of, either by public Auction or private Contract, and by Indenture or Indentures under their Common Seal to grant and convey, or direct to be granted and conveyed, by way of absolute Sale in Fee Simple for a Consideration in Money, all

or any Part or Parts of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments purchased by or belonging to the said Company, and which shall not be wanted for the Purposes of this Act; and upon Payment of the Money which shall arise by or from the Sale or Sales of such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or of any Part or Parts thereof, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Time being to the said Company to sign and give a Receipt or Receipts for the Money for which the same shall be sold, which Receipt or Receipts shall be a sufficient Discharge or sufficient Discharges to any Person or Persons for the Money therein and thereby expressed or acknowledged to be received; and such Person or Persons, having *bonâ fide* paid the same, shall not afterwards be answerable or accountable for any Loss, Misapplication, or Nonapplication of such Purchase Money or any Part thereof.

Power to raise Capital or Stock not exceeding 10,000*l.*

XXXVI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company to raise and contribute among themselves the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds by way of Capital or Joint Stock for establishing, completing, and carrying on the said Undertaking and the Purposes of this Act; provided that the whole of the said Sum of Ten thousand Pounds shall be subscribed before the Powers of this Act shall be put into execution.

Capital may be increased.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company, at any Time or Times hereafter, and from Time to Time, to raise any further Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding together with the said Sum of Ten thousand Pounds the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds, for increasing the Capital or Joint Stock of the said Company, either by a Subscription among themselves or by the Admission of new Subscribers, or by both the said Ways.

Capital or Joint Stock to be divided into Shares of 10*l.* each.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Capital or Joint Stock of Twenty thousand Pounds, and also any additional Sum or Sums to be hereafter raised as aforesaid, shall be divided into Two thousand Shares of Ten Pounds each; and such Shares shall be numbered, beginning with No. 1, and ending with No. 2,000, in regular Arithmetical Progression, and every such Share shall be distinguished by the Number to be applied to the same; and the said Shares shall be and the same are hereby vested in the several Bodies Politic, Corporate, and Collegiate, and Persons, by or for whom any Subscription shall be made or accepted, pursuant to the Orders of any General Meeting or Meetings to be held as herein-after is mentioned, for or towards the said Principal Sum or Sums, his, her, and their several and respective Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, to their and every of their proper Use and Benefit, proportionably to the Sums they shall respectively contribute; and all Bodies Politic, Corporate, and Collegiate, and all Persons, their several and respective Successors, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, who shall severally subscribe for One or more such Share or Shares, and who shall contribute and pay the same, or such Sum or Sums as shall be demanded in lieu thereof towards the said Undertaking, shall be entitled to receive the entire net Distribution of an equal proportionable Part, according to the Money so contributed, of the net Profits and Advantages of the said Undertaking that shall and may arise and accrue to, or be raised, recovered, or received by, the said Company in manner herein-after provided; and every Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Person and Persons, having or holding any such Share or Shares as aforesaid, shall bear

and

Subscribers to be deemed Proprietors.

and pay a proportionable Sum towards carrying on the Purposes of this Act in manner herein directed and appointed; and all and every Body and Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or other Person or Persons, who shall have subscribed for or agreed to advance any Money for the Purposes of this Act, or who shall hereafter subscribe for or agree to advance any Part of such Money, or who shall become entitled to and shall be in the actual Possession of One or more Share or Shares in the Capital or Joint Stock of the said Company, their, his, or her Successors, Executors, or Administrators, shall be deemed to be Proprietors or a Proprietor of the said Undertaking hereby authorized to be carried into effect.

No Proprietor to be called upon for more than the Amount of his Share.

XXXIX. And be it further enacted, That no Proprietor of the said Company shall in any Case be called upon to advance any Sum or Sums of Money whatever beyond the Amount of the Share or Shares he or they may have in the Capital Stock of the said Company.

Shares to be deemed Personal Estate.

XL. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That all Shares in the said Undertaking, and in the Profits and Advantages thereof, shall be deemed Personal Estate, and not of the Nature of Real Property, and shall be transmissible accordingly.

Power to raise Money by Mortgage.

XLI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in case the said Company shall be desirous of raising any Sum of Money which may be necessary for the Purposes of this Act by Mortgage of the said Undertaking, it shall be lawful for the said Company to borrow and take up at Interest such Sum or Sums for the Use of the said Company as they shall think proper, not exceeding in the whole Ten thousand Pounds, and either in one Sum or in several Sums, on the Credit of the said Undertaking, and the Buildings, Land, and Tenements thereof, and the Profits and Advantages, or any Part thereof, arising or to arise to the said Company by virtue of this Act, and thereupon, by Writing under their Common Seal, to assign all or any Part of the Property and Effects of the said Company to such Person or Persons as shall lend or advance any such Money, or to his, her, or their Trustee or Trustees, as a Security for the Principal Money to be advanced, together with lawful Interest for the same; and the Charges and Expences of such Assignment, to be made as herein-after is mentioned, shall be from Time to Time defrayed by the said Company out of the Money so borrowed; and every such Assignment shall be in the Words or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Form of Assignment.

'WE, the *Reading* Gas Light Company, acting in pursuance of an Act passed in the Year of the Reign of King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act, &c.* [*here insert the Title of this Act*], in consideration of the Sum of advanced and lent to the said Company by of in the County of for the Purposes of the said Act, do hereby grant and assign unto the said [*or* his, her, *or* their Trustee or Trustees, *as the Case may be*,] his [*or* her *or* their] Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, such Proportion of the Property and Effects belonging to the said Company as the said Sum of £ doth or shall bear to the whole Sum which may at any Time be borrowed by virtue of the said Act, to be had and holden from the Day of the Date hereof until the said Sum of with Interest after the Rate of *per Cent. per Annum* for the same, shall

'shall be fully paid and satisfied. In witness whereof we the said Com-
'pany have hereunto set our Common Seal the Day of
'in the Year of our Lord .'

And every such Security shall be good, valid, and effectual in the Law, and shall entitle the Person or Persons to whom the same shall be given, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, to the Payment thereof, and to all Profits and Advantages thereof, according to the Form of Words of such Assignment, and the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; and a Copy of every such Security or Assignment shall be entered in the Books of the said Company.

Power of transferring Assignments in a prescribed Form.

XLII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the several and respective Persons entitled to any of the Securities for the Money to be borrowed as aforesaid, and their respective Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, (as the Case may be,) at any Time, by Writing under their respective Hands and Seals, to transfer such Securities to any Person or Persons whomsoever; and every such Transfer may be in the Words or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Form of Transfer.

'I *A.B.* being entitled to the Sum of
'under or by virtue of an Assignment bearing Date the
'Day of under the Common Seal of the
'*Reading* Gas Light Company, in pursuance of an Act passed in the
'Year of the Reign of King *William* the Fourth,
'intituled *An Act, &c.* [*here insert the Title of this Act*], in considera-
'tion of the Sum of paid by
'of in the County of to me at or before
'the Execution of this Deed, do hereby assign and transfer all my Right
'and Interest in and to the said Sum of and to the Property
'and Effects assigned to me for securing the said Sum of
'unto the said his, her, or their Executors, Adminis-
'trators, and Assigns. Dated the Day of
'in the Year of our Lord .'

And every such Transfer shall be produced to the Clerk or Clerks of the said Company, who shall cause an Extract or Memorial thereof to be entered in the Books of the Company, which Extract or Memorial shall specify and contain the Date, Names of the Parties, and Sums of Money thereby transferred; and for the entering of such Transfer the Clerk shall be paid by the Person or Persons to whom such Transfer shall be made the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence and no more; and every such Transfer, after the entering thereof as aforesaid, shall entitle the Person to whom such Transfer shall be made, and his or her Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, to the full Benefit of the Security thereby transferred, without any other Registry or Enrolment thereof.

Securities not to be assigned except by an Instrument in Writing duly stamped.

XLIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Mortgage or other Security made or issued, or to be made or issued by the said Company under the Authority of this Act, shall be assigned or transferred except by Deed or Instrument in Writing, duly stamped according to the Laws in force, in which Deed or Instrument the Consideration for the Assignment or Transfer shall be truly specified and set forth.

No Priority of Mortgages.

XLIV. And be it further enacted, That all Persons to whom any such Assignment shall be made shall be equally entitled one with the other to

the said Undertaking and Property and Effects of the said Company, and the Profits and Advantages thereof so to be assigned, in proportion and according to the respective Sums in such Securities mentioned to be advanced, without any Preference by reason of the Priority of any such Assignment, or on any other Account; and it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons who shall have made any such Transfer to make void, release, or discharge the original Mortgage, or any Money thereby secured, or any Part thereof; but neither such Mortgagee or Mortgagees, nor his or their Assignee or Assignees (he or they not being previously a Proprietor or Proprietors of Shares in the said Undertaking), shall be deemed a Proprietor of the said Undertaking, or be capable of acting in any respect as such.

In case Mortgages are paid off, the Company may raise the Amount again.

XLV. And be it further enacted, That in case the said Company shall raise the Whole or any Part of the Money herein-before authorized to be raised by Mortgage as aforesaid, and shall afterwards pay off all or any Part of the Principal Money so secured upon Mortgage as aforesaid, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for the said Company, immediately, or at any Time thereafter, again to raise, in lieu of the Principal Money so paid off by them, such Sum of Money as they shall from Time to Time have paid off, or any Part thereof, and so from Time to Time as often as the same shall happen, but so nevertheless that the said Company shall not in any Event borrow upon Mortgage as aforesaid in such Manner or to such Extent as that more than the Sum of Ten thousand Pounds in the whole shall be owing at any one Time on Mortgage upon the said Undertaking.

Regulations of the Company as to the General Meetings.

XLVI. And be it further enacted, That the Affairs and Concerns of the said Company shall be conducted and managed under and subject to the several Rules, Regulations, and Restrictions herein-after contained; that is to say, the Proprietors of the said Company shall assemble together at the *Bear* Inn in *Reading* on the Fourth *Friday* next after the passing of this Act, and shall assemble at such other Times and Places as they shall be duly convened in manner herein-after mentioned; and every such Meeting shall be styled a General Meeting, and One such Meeting shall be held in the Month of *November* in every Year; and that a Special General Meeting may be called at any Time by the Committee of Managers; and that Ten or more Proprietors of the said Company, or Five or more of the said Proprietors who may possess at least Five Shares in the said Undertaking, may at any Time, by Writing under their respective Hands, left at the Office of the said Company, and addressed to the Committee of Managers, require the said Committee to call a Special General Meeting, so as such Requisition fully express the Object for which such Meeting is required to be called; and in case of the Neglect or Refusal of the said Committee to call such Meeting the same may be called by the said Proprietors as herein-after is expressed; and that every such General Meeting may be adjourned from Time to Time and from Place to Place, as shall be found expedient; and that at least Twenty-one Days previous Notice of every General Meeting and General Special Meeting, and Eight Days previous Notice of every Adjournment of every General or General Special Meeting, shall be given by Advertisement in some One or more of the Newspapers circulated in the said Borough of *Reading*, specifying the Time and Place of holding such Meeting, and, in the Case of Notice for any Special General Meeting, specifying

specifying also the general Purport, Business, or Occasion of such Meeting; and every General or Special General Meeting shall at all Times have full Power to adjourn to any future Day or Time; and if at any General, Special, or adjourned Meeting there shall not be assembled within One Hour from the Time appointed for such Meeting Ten Proprietors or more possessing in the whole Fifty Shares as aforesaid, or if Proprietors should depart from the Meeting before the Business then intended to be transacted shall be determined or disposed of, so as not to leave Ten Proprietors or more possessing in the whole Fifty Shares as aforesaid, then and in every or any such Case such Meeting shall be and be deemed to be adjourned to the same Day in the following Week, and at the same Place and Hour, at which such Meeting was or ought to have been held; and no Business shall be transacted at any Special General Meeting besides the Business for which it shall have been called, and no Business shall be transacted at any adjourned Meeting other than the Business left unfinished at the Meeting from which such Adjournment took place.

Mode of Proceeding at General Meetings.

XLVII. And be it further enacted, That at the First General Meeting held on the Fourth *Tuesday* next after the passing of this Act, and at every General and General Special Meeting, the Chair shall be taken by a Proprietor, to be elected by a Majority of the Members present, and that at every such General Meeting all Questions shall be decided by a Majority of Votes of the Proprietors and Proxies present, and not declining to vote, according to their respective Number of Votes; and upon any Difference of Opinion any Member or Members may require such Votes to be taken by Ballot, unless some other Mode of Decision shall then be determined or resolved upon by a Majority of Proprietors present at the Expiration of an Hour, but that no Ballot shall be kept open more than Three Hours, and that such Proprietor as shall be in the Chair shall be entitled to vote, and shall also have a casting Vote in case the Number of Votes shall be equal.

Proprietors to vote according to the Number of their Shares.

XLVIII. And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall be entitled to or be in the actual Possession of One or more Share or Shares in the said Company shall have a Vote or Votes in respect of such Share or Shares in the General and Special General Meeting of the said Company in proportion to his or her Share or Shares, as herein-after is mentioned; (that is to say,) for One Share and less than Five Shares One Vote, for Five Shares and less than Ten Shares Two Votes, for Ten Shares and less than Twenty Shares Three Votes, for Twenty Shares and less than Thirty Shares Four Votes, for Thirty Shares and upwards Five Votes, and no more; but no Person shall be entitled to vote in respect of any Share or Shares after a Day appointed for Payment of any Call or Instalment thereof, to be called for as herein is mentioned, until such Instalment shall have been paid; and that no Person or Persons shall vote at any General Meeting upon any Question relating to the Concerns of the said Undertaking in which such Person or Persons shall be anywise interested, other than a Subscriber or Subscribers, Proprietor or Proprietors, to or of the said Undertaking.

Female and non-resident Proprietors may vote by Proxy.

XLIX. And be it further enacted, That every Female Proprietor of any Share or Shares in the said Company, and every other Proprietor whose Place of Residence may not be within the said Borough of *Reading*, entitled

entitled to vote in respect of such Share or Shares at any General or Special General Meeting of the said Company, shall have full Power and Authority to give his, her, or their Vote or Votes at any such General or Special General Meeting or Meetings as aforesaid either in Person or by Proxy, every such Proxy being a Proprietor of the said Company; but no Persons shall deliver in Proxies for more than Three Female or non-resident Proprietors; and the Appointment of such Proxies may be made in the Form or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Form of Proxy.

'I of one of the
'Proprietors of and in the *Reading* Gas Light Company, do hereby
'nominate and appoint of
'a Proprietor of the said Company, to be my Proxy at a Meeting of the
'Members thereof convened for the Day of
'and then and there, or at any Adjournment thereof, in my Name to
'vote, or give my Assent to or Dissent from any Business, Matter, or
'Thing that shall be mentioned or proposed at such Meeting or Adjourn-
'ment relating to the Concerns of the said Company, in such Manner as
'the said shall think proper, according to his Opinion
'and Judgment, for the Benefit of the said Company, or any thing relating
'thereto. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand this
'Day of .'

If Two or more Persons be joint Proprietors, One only shall vote.

L. And be it further enacted, That when Two or more Persons shall be jointly possessed of or entitled to any Share or Shares in the said Co-partnership, One of such Persons, but not more of them, shall be entitled to vote in respect thereof; and if more than One shall be present, and claim to vote, the Right shall be in the one of them whose Name shall stand first among the Names of the Proprietors of such Share or Shares in the Books of the said Company.

Votes of Corporate Bodies, Lunatics, and Minors.

LI. And be it further enacted, That every Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate shall have full Power and Authority from Time to Time to give their Vote or Votes in respect of their Share or Shares in the said Undertaking by some Person to be by them named and appointed their Deputy for the Purpose of voting, in Writing under their Common Seal: Provided always, that every such Appointment shall always be produced by the Person so appointed a Deputy before he shall be entitled to vote as such; and in case any Proprietor or Proprietors entitled to vote at any such Meeting as aforesaid shall be a Lunatic or Lunatics, or a Minor or Minors, such Lunatic or Lunatics shall or may vote at such Meeting or Meetings by his, her, or their Committee or Committees, or any One of such Committees, and such Minor or Minors shall and may vote by his, her, or their Guardian or Guardians, or any One of such Guardians; and the Appointment of such Committee or Guardian shall always be produced by the Person applying to vote as such Committee or Guardian before he shall be entitled to vote as such.

Proceedings to be entered and signed.

LII. And be it further enacted, That the Orders and Proceedings of every Meeting of the said Company and of their Managers shall be entered in the Books of the Company to be provided and kept for the Purpose; and such Orders and Proceedings shall be signed by the Chairman for the Time being of such respective Meeting, or, when for the Purposes of Adjournment only by the Clerk to the said Company, and being so signed shall

shall be deemed and taken to be original Orders and Proceedings; and such Orders and Proceedings when so entered and signed, and also the Minutes or Entries herein-after provided to be kept of the Orders and Proceedings of the Committee of Managers, when signed as herein-after ordered, shall be deemed original Orders and Proceedings, and shall be allowed to be read in Evidence in all Courts, and before all Judges, Justices, and others, and that without Proof of such Meeting having been duly convened, or of the Persons making or entering such Orders or Proceedings being Proprietors or Managers of the said Company, as the Case may be.

The Annual General Meeting to choose Managers.

LIII. And be it further enacted, That the General Meeting of the said Company to be held in the Month of *November* in every Year shall choose and elect, by Ballot, out of and from and amongst the Proprietors of the said Company, Fifteen Persons to form the Committee of Managers of the said Company for the Year ensuing; and in that Election no more than Two Thirds of the Managers of and for the Year last past shall and may be re-chosen and re-elected; and in case more than Two Thirds of the Managers for the preceding Year shall be chosen, such of them shall be preferred as shall have the greatest Number of Votes in their Favour, and the Votes in favour of a greater Number than Two Thirds of the old Managers shall be deemed of no Effect.

General Meetings may examine Accounts.

Annual General Meetings may make Dividends.

LIV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company at any General or Special General Meeting from Time to Time to call for and examine and settle all or any of the Accounts of the said Company; and at every General Meeting to be held in the Month of *November* in every Year, or some Adjournment thereof, a Dividend or Dividends shall be made out of the Interest, Profits, or Advantages of the said Undertaking (unless such Meeting shall declare otherwise), and such Dividend or Dividends shall be at and after the Rate of such Sum upon or for every Share in the said Undertaking as such Meeting or Meetings shall think fit to order and determine, and the same shall be paid to the respective Proprietors by the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Company; but no Dividend shall be made whereby the Capital of the said Company shall be reduced, nor shall any Dividend be paid in respect of any Share or Shares until all Calls for Money then made in respect thereof by virtue of this Act shall have been paid.

General Meetings may make Calls on Proprietors.

LV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Company at any General or Special General Meeting to make such Call or Calls for Money from the several Subscribers to or Proprietors of Shares in the said Undertaking, their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, not exceeding in the whole, including the Sums already paid in respect of such Share, the Sum of Ten Pounds on each Share, as they shall from Time to Time think necessary for the Purposes of the said Undertaking, so that no One such Call shall exceed the Sum of Five Pounds for or in respect of any One Share, and so that no Call or Calls shall be made but at the Distance of One Calendar Month at least from another; and the Sum or several Sums of Money so to be called for shall be paid into the Hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers to the said Company, and shall be paid at such Time and Place as shall be appointed at such General or Special General Meeting, of which Time

and Place Twenty-eight Days Notice at least shall be given in One or more Newspapers circulated in the said Borough of *Reading*.

Other Powers of General and Special Meetings.

LVI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be competent to any General or Special General Meeting to call for, inspect, and examine the Accounts of the said Company, and of the Managers thereof, and of the Collectors of the Rents or other Sums of Money, and other Officers of the said Company, and also in like Manner to call for, inspect, and examine all Rules, Regulations, Accounts, Books, Vouchers, Memorandums, and Documents relating to the said Company or to the Business thereof, and to call for any Information or Explanation from the Managers, Clerk, and other Officers of the said Company, in respect of the said Matters or any of them, and also to give and allow to the Managers for the Time being collectively, or to each or any of them individually, such Remuneration, Salary, or Allowance for his or their Time and Trouble in attending to or conducting the Business of the Company as by such Meeting shall be deemed fit, and also to allow and confirm the Accounts of the Company, so as to bind all the Proprietors for the Time being and all Persons claiming under them, and generally to consider and decide upon any Business, Matter, or Thing relating to the said Company and the Affairs and Concerns thereof.

Management to be vested in a Committee; their general Duties and Powers.

LVII. And be it further enacted, That the Business and Concerns of the said Company shall be carried on under the Management of a Committee of Fifteen Managers to be chosen from Time to Time out of the Proprietors of the said Company; and such Committee shall, subject to the Orders and Directions of the said Company made at any General or Special General Meeting, have the general Management, Direction, and Superintendence and Control of the Business and Concerns of the said Company, and the Custody of the Common Seal of the said Company, with Power to use the same on their Behalf, and also the Custody of the Books of Account, and other Books, Deeds, and Papers of or belonging to the said Company; and shall have Power to direct the issuing, receiving, and laying out, Sale, and Disposal of the Monies of the Company, and all other the Dealings of the Company, and to call and appoint the Times and Places of holding General and other Meetings of the Proprietors, and to superintend, direct, and control the Correspondence and Mode of keeping the Accounts, and to do all other Things necessary or deemed by them proper or expedient for carrying on the Business and Concerns of the said Company; and to contract for and purchase Messuages, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Materials, Goods, and Chattels, for the Use of the said Undertaking; and to enter into Agreements or Contracts for lighting and supplying with Gas; and to nominate, elect, appoint, or displace any Officer, Agent, or Servant of the said Company (not being a Treasurer or Clerk to the said Company), with such Salaries, Gratuities, or other Recompence as to the said Committee shall seem proper; and to order, direct, and employ the Works and Workmen, and the selling and disposing of all Articles provided, produced, or manufactured under the Authority of this Act; and the bringing and maintaining any Action or Actions at Law, or Suit or Suits in Equity, in the Name of the Company, for the Recovery of any Debt or Debts to become due to the said Company in respect of any such Sale or Sales or otherwise; and the making, enforcing, and rescinding, compounding and com-

promising, all Contracts and Bargains touching or in anywise concerning the same; and to enforce, perform, and execute all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges, Acts, and Things in relation to the said Company, and to bind the said Company, except such as are hereby required to be done at some General or Special General Meeting of the said Company; and that the Committee of Managers for the Time being shall have Power to frame Rules and Regulations, and to prescribe the Orders and Directions, for carrying on the Business and Concerns of the said Company, and to alter and vary the same from Time to Time as they in their Discretion shall think fit; and that no individual Proprietor, not being a Manager (except as herein-after provided), shall have a Right to any Interference, Management, Direction, or Control in or over the Business and Concerns of the Company, or the Capital Stock or Effects thereof.

First Managers.

LVIII. And be it further enacted, That *William Abery*, *James Boorne*, *Thomas Challis*, *Henry Deane*, *William Golding*, *Henry William Golding*, *John Harris*, Banker, *James Blackman Kemp*, *Edward Law*, *Herbert Lewis*, *William May*, *John Stamp*, *William Tiley* the younger, *Henry Trendell*, and *John Yard Willats* shall be and they are hereby appointed the first or present Managers of the Company under this Act, and they shall continue in Office, unless they respectively shall sooner die, or resign, or become disqualified, until other Managers shall be chosen in their Places at the said First General Annual Meeting of the said Company or some Adjournment thereof, and that the Managers for the Time being shall always continue in Office until others shall be chosen in their Places.

No Person eligible to be a Manager who shall serve the Company with any Articles, or hold any Office of Profit or Emolument under the Company.

LIX. And it is hereby further enacted, That no Person shall be eligible for the Office of Manager of the said Company who shall, either alone or as a Partner, at the Time of such Election, serve or provide the Company with any Articles or Materials by way of Contract or otherwise for the Use thereof, or hold any Office of Profit or Emolument in or under the said Company; and if any Person, being such Manager, shall in any Manner, directly or indirectly, either alone or as a Partner, supply any Articles or Materials for the Use of the said Company to the Value of Five Pounds in any One Year while a Manager of the said Company, or shall cease to be a Proprietor of the said Company, every such Manager shall thenceforth cease and be disqualified to vote or act as a Manager of the said Company; provided that until the Disqualification of any Manager shall have been communicated to and recorded at a Committee of Management every Act and Proceeding to which he shall be a Party shall be as valid and effectual as if no such Disqualification had taken place.

Managers not personally answerable for Acts legally done as Managers.

LX. And be it further enacted, That none of the Managers of the said Company hereby appointed or hereafter to be appointed under the Authority of this Act shall, by reason or means or on account of his being Party to, or making, signing, or executing, in his Capacity of Manager of the said Company, pursuant to this Act, any Contract or other Instrument for or on behalf of the said Company, or otherwise lawfully executing any of the Powers and Authorities given to the said Managers by this Act, be subject or liable to be sued, prosecuted, or impleaded, either collectively or individually, by any Person whomsoever in any Court of Law or Equity or elsewhere; and that the Bodies, Goods, Chattels, Lands, or

Tenements

Tenements of the said Managers or any of them shall not, by reason, on account, or in consequence of any such Contract or other Instrument so entered into or made, signed or executed, by them or any of them as aforesaid, or any other lawful Act which shall be done by them or any of them in the Execution of any of the Powers and Authorities given to them or any of them by this Act, be liable to be arrested, seized, detained, or taken in execution; but that in every such Case any Person making any Claim or Demand upon the said Company or upon any Managers thereof, under or by virtue of any such Contract or Instrument or other lawful Act, may sue and implead the said Company in like Manner as if such Contract, Instrument, or other Act had been entered into and executed and done under the Common Seal of the said Company.

First and other Meetings of Committee of Management.

LXI. And be it further enacted, That the said Committee of Management shall hold their First Meeting at the Office of the said Company on the Second *Thursday* next after the passing of this Act; and the said Committee shall meet once at least in every Three Calendar Months, and, at such other Times as they shall think proper, and at such other Times as they shall be convened, as herein-after is mentioned, and every such Meeting shall be styled a Committee of Management; and the said Committee shall from Time to Time appoint one of the Managers present to preside as Chairman; and all Questions, Matters, and Things which shall be proposed, discussed, or considered by the said Committee of Managers at any of their Meetings shall be decided and determined by a Majority in Number of Members present (the Number present not being less than Five), and in case of an equal Number of Votes upon any Question, including the Vote of the Chairman for the Time being, such Chairman shall have the decisive and casting Vote, but no Committee shall be competent to enter upon or determine any Business unless at least Five Managers be present at the Commencement of such Business, and when a Decision takes place upon the Whole or any Part of it; and if, on the Day appointed for any Meeting of the said Committee, Five Managers shall not attend, then and in every such Case the Meeting of the Committee shall be adjourned to the same Day in the following Week, or until such Time as the Manager or Managers then present shall appoint; and any Two or more Managers may at any Time when they shall think fit call a Meeting of the Committee upon such Notice and in such Manner as shall from Time to Time be provided by the Bye Laws of the said Company or the Orders of the Committee of Management; and the said Managers shall keep a regular Minute and Entry of the Orders and Proceedings at every Meeting of the Committee, which shall be signed by the Chairman at each respective Meeting; and the same, if required by any such Meeting, shall be produced at any General or Special General Meeting of the said Company.

Committee may appoint Sub-Committees.

LXII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Committee of Management from Time to Time to nominate and appoint out of their own Body One or more Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees, with such Powers and Authorities as the said Committee shall think proper to delegate or entrust to them; and that all Matters and Things which a Committee of Management shall order and direct to be done by such Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees shall and may, by virtue of such Orders, be done by such Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees; and it shall be

be lawful for the said Committee of Management, by an Order or Resolution for that Purpose, to break up and dissolve any such Sub-Committee, and to remove or displace any of the Members thereof, and to appoint others in their Place and Stead, or to appoint from Time to Time One or more other Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees in manner aforesaid, with such and the like or any other Powers or Authorities, when and so often as the said Committee of Management shall think expedient.

Committee of Management to appoint a Treasurer and Clerk.

LXIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Committee of Management herein-after appointed, or the major Part of them, at their First Meeting or at any other Meeting, to elect and appoint a Treasurer or Treasurers and a Clerk or Clerks for transacting the Business of the said Company; and that it shall be lawful for the same or any future Committee of Management hereafter appointed pursuant to the Directions of this Act from Time to Time to remove and displace such Treasurer or Treasurers, Clerk or Clerks, or either of them, and from Time to Time to elect and appoint any other Person or Persons to act as Treasurer or Treasurers or Clerk or Clerks in the Room of such of the said Officers as shall happen to die, or to resign, or be removed from their respective Offices, and to allow such Salaries or other Emoluments to the said Officers or any of them as at such Meeting shall from Time to Time be fixed upon and determined.

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

LXIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said Committee of Management to appoint the Person or Persons who may be appointed to act as their Clerk or Clerks in the Execution of this Act, or the Partner of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of the Partner of any such Clerk or Clerks, to be the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Purposes of this Act, or to appoint the Person or Persons who may be appointed Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Partner of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of the Partner of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, to be the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company; and if any Person or Persons shall accept both the Offices of Clerk and Treasurer for the Purposes of this Act, or if any Person being the Partner of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of the Partner of any such Clerk or Clerks, shall accept the Office of Treasurer or Treasurers, or shall act as Deputy of such Treasurer or Treasurers, or in any Manner officiate for such Treasurer or Treasurers, or being the Partner of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or any Person in the Service or Employ of the Partner of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, shall accept the Office of Clerk or Clerks in the Execution of this Act, or shall act as Deputy of such Clerk or Clerks, or in any Manner officiate for such Clerk or Clerks, or if any such Treasurer shall hold any Place or Office of Profit or Trust under the said Company other than that of Treasurer, every such 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,

same, to be recovered, together with full Costs of Suit, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt or on the Case.

Committee to cause Books to be kept.

LXV. And be it further enacted, That the Committee of Management shall cause Books to be provided and kept for the Purpose of entering and registering the Proceedings of the said Company and of the said Committee, and all Orders and Resolutions made at any of their Meetings respectively, and the Names and Designations of the Subscribers to the Undertaking, and of all Holders of Shares therein, and the Numbers of such Shares, and all Transfers of such Shares, and all Mortgages of the Undertaking, or Securities for Money borrowed, and all Transfers thereof, and all other Proceedings, Matters, and Things to be done in pursuance of the Directions of this Act; and such Books shall, subject to the Orders of the Company and their Committee, be kept by the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company; and such Books, and the Entries therein, entered or signed pursuant to the Directions of this Act, shall be admitted in Evidence by and before all Judges, Justices, and others, and in all Courts and Places whatsoever, and any Person interested shall at all seasonable Times be allowed to inspect such Books without Fee or Reward.

Treasurer not to issue Money without an Order of the Committee of Management

LXVI. And be it further enacted, That no Sum or Sums of Money shall be issued by the Treasurer or Treasurers or other Officer or Officers to be appointed by the said Company on account of the said Company, without an Order or Orders in Writing signed by the Chairman of a Committee of Management, Two other Managers at least being present at the Time of ordering or directing such Issue of Money to be made; and every such Order shall also be countersigned by the Clerk for the Time being of the said Company.

Treasurer and Officers to give Security.

LXVII. And be it further enacted, That every Treasurer, Collector, and other Person who may be employed in the Service of the said Company, and be thereby in any Manner concerned in the Receipt of any Money of or belonging to the said Company, shall, previously to his being so employed, give such Security to the said Company as the Committee of Management shall think proper and sufficient, and order and direct in that Behalf.

Officers to account and deliver up their Papers.

LXVIII. And be it further enacted, That every Treasurer, Clerk, and other Officer and Person who shall be employed by virtue of this Act shall from Time to Time, when thereunto required by the said Company or by the said Committee of Management, make out and deliver to the said Company or to the said Committee, or to such Persons as they shall respectively for that Purpose appoint, a true and perfect Account in Writing under his Hand of all Monies which shall have been by him received by virtue of this Act, and stating how, and to whom, and for what Purpose the same shall have been disposed of, together with Vouchers and Receipts for such Payments; and every such Officer and Person shall pay all such Monies as upon the Balance of such Account shall appear to be owing from him to the Treasurer of the said Company, or to such Person as the said Company or Managers shall appoint to receive the same; and if any such Officer or Person shall refuse or neglect to render such Account, or to produce and deliver up such Vouchers and Receipts

Mode of enforcing such Payment and Delivery.

relating to the same, or to pay the Balance thereof, when required in manner aforesaid, or shall refuse or neglect to deliver up to the said Company or to the said Committee, or to such Persons as they shall respectively appoint, within Ten Days after being thereunto required by the said Company or by the said Committee as last aforesaid, all Books, Papers, Vouchers, and Writings in his Custody or Power relating to the Execution of this Act, then and in every such Case, Complaint being made thereof by the said Company or by the said Committee, or by any other Person on their Behalf, to any Justice of the Peace for the County or Place in which such Officer or Person shall be or reside, such Justice may and he is hereby required by Warrant under his Hand and Seal to cause such Officer or Person to be brought before him, and upon his appearing or not being to be found to hear and determine the Matter of such Complaint in a summary Way, and to settle the said Account, if produced, in such Manner as the said Company or the said Committee might have done; and if upon the Confession of the Officer or Person against whom such Complaint shall be made, or by the Oath of any credible Witness, or by the solemn Affirmation of any Person being a Quaker, it shall appear to such Justice that any of the Monies which shall have been collected or received shall be in the Hands of or be owing from such Officer or Person, such Justice may and he is hereby empowered, upon Nonpayment thereof, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal to cause such Money to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Officer or Person; and if no Goods or Chattels shall be found sufficient to answer and satisfy the said Monies, and the Charges of taking and making such Distress and of selling the same, or if such Officer or Person shall not appear before such Justice at the Time and Place appointed for that Purpose, or if appearing shall refuse or neglect to make out and deliver to such Justice such Accounts in Writing as aforesaid, or to produce and deliver to the said Justice the several Vouchers and Receipts relating to such Accounts, or to deliver up such Books, Papers, and Writings aforesaid, then and in any of the Cases aforesaid the said Justice may and he is hereby required by Warrant under his Hand and Seal to commit such Officer or Person to some Common Gaol or House of Correction of or for the County or Place in which such Officer or Person shall live or reside, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until he shall have made out and delivered such Account, and have delivered up the Vouchers and Receipts (if any) relating thereto, and have delivered up such Books, Papers, and Writings (if any) as aforesaid, and shall have paid all the Money which shall appear to be in the Hands of or owing from him, and the reasonable Charges of such Distress and Sale as shall in that respect have been made, or until he shall have compounded with the said Company or with the said Managers for such Money and Charges, and have paid the Composition Money to the said Company or to the said Managers (and which Composition the said Company and the said Managers are hereby respectively empowered to make and accept), or have given Satisfaction in respect of such Vouchers, Receipts, Books, Papers, and Writings to the said Company or to the said Managers: Provided always, that no Person who shall be committed for Want of sufficient Distress only shall be detained in Prison for any longer Space of Time than Three Calendar Months.

Names of Proprietors to be entered

LXIX. And be it further enacted, That the Names and Designations of the several Bodies Politic, Corporate, and Collegiate, and Persons, who are

in a Book, and Certificates of their Shares to be delivered to them.

are or shall be hereafter Subscribers to or Proprietors of Shares in the said Undertaking, with the proper Number by which every Share possessed by each of the Subscribers and Proprietors shall be distinguished, shall be distinctly entered in the Books of the Company to be kept as aforesaid; and after making such Entry a Certificate under the Common Seal of the said Company shall be made out in respect of each and every Share in the said Undertaking, specifying therein the proper Number of such Share, and the Name and Designation of the Subscriber or Proprietor; which Certificate shall be delivered to the Proprietor of such Share, his or her Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, upon Demand, and shall be admitted in all Courts whatsoever as Evidence of the Title of such Proprietor, his or her Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, to the Share therein specified, and to the Profits and Advantages accruing in respect of the same, but the Want of such Certificate shall not hinder or prevent the Proprietor or Proprietors of any such Share or Shares from selling or disposing of any such Share or Shares; and in case such Certificate shall not be produced or forthcoming, the said Entry, or a true Copy thereof, certified by the Clerk or Clerks of the said Company, shall be deemed *primâ facie* Evidence of Title; and for which Certificate and the original Certificate respectively the said Clerk or Clerks shall be paid the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence and no more; and which Certificate may be in the Words or to the Effect following; *viz*t.

Form of Certificate.

'*Reading* Gas Light Company.

'Number

'THESE are to certify, That of is a Proprietor of the Share Number of the Capital or Joint Stock of the *Reading* Gas Light Company, subject to the Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the said Company; and that the said his [*or* her] Executors, Administrators [*or* their Successors], and Assigns, is and are entitled to such Proportion of the Profits and Advantages arising or to arise to the said Company as shall belong to such Share. Given under the Common Seal of the said Company the Day of in the Year of our Lord .'

For enforcing Payment of Subscription as called for.

LXX. And be it further enacted, That the several Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, and Persons, who have already subscribed for or towards the said Undertaking, or who shall at any Time hereafter have or hold any Share or Shares in the Capital or Joint Stock of the said Company, shall and they are hereby respectively required to pay the Sum or Sums of Money by them respectively subscribed and to be subscribed for, or such Parts or Portions thereof as shall from Time to Time be called for pursuant to the Powers and Directions of this Act, at such Times and Places, to such Person or Persons, and in such Manner as shall be ordered and directed by the said Committee of Management for the Time being; and in case any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Person or Persons, shall neglect or refuse to pay any such Money at such Time or Times and in such Manner as shall be ordered and directed by the said Company as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said Company to sue for and recover the same by Action of Debt or otherwise in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, together with lawful Interest for the same from the appointed Time or Times of Payment, and full Costs of Suit, from such Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate,

porate, or Collegiate, Person or Persons respectively, and in like Cases of Neglect or Refusal where Two or more Persons shall have jointly subscribed for or be jointly possessed of any One or more such Share or Shares, then and in like Manner to sue for and recover the same from all or any such joint Subscribers.

In default of Payment on Calls, Shares may be forfeited and sold.

LXXI. And be it further enacted, That if any Subscriber to or Proprietor of any Share or Shares in the said Undertaking, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, shall neglect or refuse to pay his, her, or their Portion of the Money to be called for as aforesaid by the Time appointed for Payment thereof, or within Twenty-one Days then next after, then and in such Case each such Subscriber or Proprietor so neglecting or refusing shall (whether the same shall have been sued for in any Court of Law or Equity or not) absolutely forfeit all his, her, or their Share and Interest in the said Undertaking, and all Money theretofore advanced by him, her, or them on account thereof, to and for the Use and Benefit of the said Company, unless otherwise determined by a Special General Meeting; and all Shares which shall or may be so forfeited shall be vested in the said Company, and be sold at a public Sale to the highest Bidder, and the Produce thereof shall be applied and disposed of in manner herein-after mentioned: Provided always, that no Advantage shall be taken of such Forfeiture until after Fourteen Days Notice in Writing, signed by the Chairman of a Committee of Management thereof, shall have been given to the Proprietor or Proprietors thereof, or if a Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, to the principal Officer thereof, or left at his, her, or their last or usual Place of Abode if they shall reside within the Limits of this Act, and if not, then by Letter sent by the Post; and every such Forfeiture shall be an absolute Indemnification and Discharge to and for the Proprietor or Proprietors, and their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, so forfeiting, against all Actions, Suits, and Prosecutions for or on account of not paying up such Calls; and every Share so sold shall be transferred to the Purchaser or Purchasers thereof by the said Company under their Common Seal, and the Name of Names of the Purchaser or Purchasers shall be registered in the Books of the Company, and such Purchaser and Purchasers shall be subject to all the same Liabilities as if he, she, or they had been a Subscriber or Subscribers to the said Undertaking, and to all the Rules and Directions of this Act, and thereupon the Proprietor or Proprietors of such Shares so sold and transferred shall be and be deemed a Proprietor or Proprietors of the said Company to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, and shall be entitled to all the same Privileges and Advantages as if he, she, or they had been a Subscriber or Subscribers to the said Undertaking.

If the Purchase Money of forfeited Shares be more than sufficient to pay the Arrears of Calls, Interest, and Expences, the Surplus to be paid to the Owner.

LXXII. Provided also, and be it further enacted, That in case the Money produced by the Sale of any Share or Shares shall be more than sufficient to pay all such Arrears of Calls as aforesaid, and lawful Interest thereon, with the Expences attending such Sale or Sales, the Surplus of such Money shall be paid, on Demand, to the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, to whom such Share or Shares shall have belonged; but the said Company shall not sell or transfer, or direct to be sold or transferred, any more of such Shares of such Defaulter or Defaulters than shall be sufficient, as near as may be at the Time of such Call, to pay the Arrears due from such Defaulter or Defaulters for and on account of such Call or Calls,

Calls, and the Interest and Expences attending the same; and from and after the Payment of all such Calls, with the Interest and Expences as aforesaid, any Share or Shares so vested in such Company as aforesaid which shall remain in their Hands unsold shall revert to and again become the Property of the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, or his, her, or their Executors or Administrators or Successors, to whom such Share or Shares shall have belonged immediately before such Forfeitures as aforesaid, in such Manner as if such Calls had been duly and regularly paid.

Executors of deceased Persons to be indemnified on paying Calls.

LXXIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person who shall be a Subscriber or Proprietor of any Share or Shares in the said Undertaking shall die before Payment shall have been made by him or her of the full Amount which under the Provisions of this Act may be called for by the said Company in respect of such Share or Shares, without having made any sufficient and effectual Provision by Will or otherwise how the future Calls in respect of such Share or Shares are to be answered and satisfied, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for the Executor or Administrator of such deceased Subscriber or Proprietor, and the Trustees or Guardians of any Infant or other Person entitled to the Estate and Effects of such deceased Subscriber or Proprietor respectively, to pay out of any Assets or Effects of any such deceased Subscriber or Proprietor, in a due Course of Administration, any Money which shall be duly called for in respect of such Share or Shares as aforesaid.

Receipt of One or of Two Proprietors of a Share a sufficient Discharge.

LXXIV. And be it further enacted, That the Receipt of the Person or of any Two of the Persons in whose Name or Names any Share in the said Undertaking shall stand in the Books of the said Company shall from Time to Time be a sufficient Discharge to the said Company, or to the Treasurer for the Time being of the said Company, for any Dividend or other Sum of Money which shall become payable and be paid for or in respect of such Share, notwithstanding any Uses or Trusts upon or to which such Share shall be then settled, conveyed, or assigned, and the said Company shall not be bound to see to the Application of the Money mentioned in such Receipt.

Receipt of the Parent or Guardian of a Minor a sufficient Discharge.

LXXV. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where Money shall be payable under the Provisions of this Act to any Proprietor who shall be a Minor, Idiot, or Lunatic, the Receipt of the Guardian, if any, or, if not, of the Parent of such Minor, or of the Committee of such Idiot or Lunatic, shall be a sufficient Discharge to the said Company and their Treasurer for the same.

Shares may be sold.

LXXVI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the several and respective Proprietors of any Share or Shares in the said Undertaking, their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns, to sell and transfer any Share or Shares of which they shall respectively be possessed; and every such Transfer shall be in the Form or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Form of Transfer.

‘ I [*or* We] of in consideration
‘ of paid to me [*or* us] by
‘ of do hereby bargain, sell, and transfer to the
‘ said the Sum of Part of the Capital
‘ or

'or Joint Stock of the *Reading* Gas Light Company, being my [*or* our] 'Share [*or* Shares], Number in the Capital or Joint Stock and 'Property and Effects of the said Company, to hold to the said 'Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, subject to the same Rules, 'Orders, and Restrictions, and on the same Conditions, that I [*or* we] 'held the same immediately before the Execution thereof; and I [*or* we] 'the said do hereby agree to take and accept the 'Share or Shares, subject to the same Rules, Orders, 'Restrictions, and Conditions. As witness our Hands and Seals this 'Day of in the Year of our Lord .'

Transfers to be registered.

Which Transfers shall be executed by all the Parties thereto, and be deposited with the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company for the Time being, to be filed by such Clerk or Clerks, and kept for the Use of the said Company; and every such Transfer which shall appear to be regular shall be registered in the Books of the said Company by an Entry of the Date of such Registry and the Date of such Transfer, together with the Names of the Parties thereto and the Number of the Shares transferred, for which Entry and Registry the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence shall be paid to the Clerk or Clerks making the same; and a Copy of such Registry, signed by the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company, shall be sufficient Evidence of every such Sale and Transfer, and received as such, in all Disputes and in all Trials before any Court of the United Kingdom: Provided always, that until such Transfer shall be so entered or registered in the Books of the said Company no Purchaser or Purchasers of any Share or Shares, his or their Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, shall have any Part or Share in the said Undertaking or in the Profits and Advantages thereof, nor shall receive any Interest or Dividend for or in respect of such Share or Shares so purchased, nor be entitled to vote at any Meeting or Meetings as Proprietor or Proprietors of Shares in the said Undertaking: Provided also, that after any Call for Money shall be made by virtue of this Act no Person or Persons shall sell or transfer any Share or Shares which he, she, or they shall possess in the said Undertaking until the Money so called for in respect of his, her, or their Share or Shares intended to be sold shall be paid, and until such Money so called for shall be paid any such Sale or Transfer of any such Share or Shares shall not be valid; and all and every Person or Persons making default herein shall be subject and liable to forfeit such his, her, or their Share or Shares in the said Undertaking to and for the general Benefit of the said Company, unless he, she, or they shall, at the Time of such Sale or Sales or Transfer, pay to the Treasurer or Treasurers of the said Company the full Sum of Money called for upon every Share so to be sold or transferred, subject to the Provisions of this Act.

For ascertaining Proprietorship of Shares in certain Cases.

LXXVII. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where the Right of Property in One or more Share or Shares in the said Undertaking shall pass from the original Subscriber or Subscribers, or any Proprietor or Proprietors thereof, to any other Person or Persons, Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, by any other legal Means than by a Transfer or Conveyance thereof in the Form and Manner herein-before specified, a Declaration in lieu of an Oath shall be made and subscribed by Two credible Persons before One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the Borough of *Reading*, or for the District or Districts wherein such Persons shall

shall respectively be residing at the Time, in the Manner prescribed by the Act made and passed in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act to repeal an Act of the present Session of Parliament, intituled 'An Act for the more effectual Abolition of Oaths and 'Affirmations taken and made in various Departments of the State, and to 'substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire Suppression 'of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits;' and to make other Provisions for the Abolition of unnecessary Oaths*, stating the Manner in which such Share or Shares hath or have passed to such other Person or Persons, Body or Bodies, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns; and such Declaration shall be submitted to the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company, to the Intent that he or they may enter and register the Name or Names of every such other Proprietor or Proprietors in the Books of the Company; and that any Person or Persons who shall wilfully and corruptly make and subscribe any such Declaration, knowing the same to be untrue in any material Particular, shall be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanor; and in all or any of the said Cases, after Three Calendar Months Notice in Writing shall have been given by the said Clerk or Clerks to the Owner or Owners thereof, or Person or Persons, or to the principal Officer of the Body or Bodies claiming by such Declaration to be Owner or Owners thereof, or left at his, her, or their last or usual Place or Places of Abode, to pay the Proportion of Money to be called for as herein-before is mentioned in respect of such Share or Shares, and such Person or Persons, Body or Bodies, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, shall not have paid such his, her, or their Proportion as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any General or Special Meeting after the Expiration of such Notice to declare the same Share or Shares to be forfeited, and in such Case the same shall be and become forfeited, and shall and may be sold and disposed of in manner herein-before directed as to other forfeited Shares.

5 & 6 W. 4. c. 62.

Proofs required where Rights accrue by Marriage or Death.

LXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That when any Person or Persons shall claim any Part or Share in the Joint Stock of the said Company or the Profits thereof in right of Marriage, a Declaration in lieu of an Oath, containing a Copy of the Register of the said Marriage or the Purport of such Register, shall be made and subscribed by some credible Person before One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Borough of *Reading*, or for the District or Districts wherein such Persons shall respectively be residing at the Time, in the Manner prescribed by the said Act made and passed in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of His present Majesty, and shall be delivered to and left with the Clerk or Clerks for the Time being to the said Company, who shall preserve the same, and make an Entry thereof in the Books of the Company; and the said Clerk or Clerks shall be paid for every such Entry the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence and no more before such Person or Persons shall be entitled to sell and assign such Share or Shares, or to claim Payment of any Dividend or Dividends in respect thereof; and that any Person or Persons who shall wilfully and corruptly make and subscribe any such Declaration, knowing the same to be untrue in any material Particular, shall be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanor; and when any Person or Persons shall claim any Part or Share in the Joint Stock of the said Company, or the Profits thereof, under or by virtue of any Will or Bequest, or in a Course of Administration, the Probate Copy of the Will, or the Letters of Administration

nistration in case the Proprietor shall have died intestate, shall be produced and shown to the said Clerk or Clerks, who shall make an Entry of such Will, or of so much thereof as shall relate to the Disposition of the Share or Shares of the Testator, or of the Letters of Administration in case the Proprietor shall have died intestate, in the Books of the Company; and the said Clerk or Clerks shall be paid for every such Entry the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence and no more before any Person or Persons shall be entitled to sell and assign such Share or Shares, or to claim Payment of any Dividend or Dividends in respect thereof: Provided nevertheless, that no Bequest or Clause in any such Will contained shall bind or affect, or be construed to bind or affect, the said Company with Notice of any Trust or Disposition of any Share or Shares in the Joint Stock of the said Company, or the Gains and Profits thereof; but the Registry of any such Share or Shares shall be in the Name or Names of the Executor or Executors who shall prove the Will of such Testator, or the Administrator or Administrators of his Effects, whose Receipt or Receipts to the said Company for the Gains and Profits thereof, and to any Purchaser or Purchasers for the Amount of the Purchase Money paid upon the Sale and Conveyance of such Share or Shares, shall be good and effectual, and shall bind the Cestuique Trusts and all other Persons claiming Interest under such Testator, any Rule of Law or Equity to the contrary notwithstanding.

Penalty on laying Pipes of Communication, &c. without the Consent of Company.

LXXIX. And be it further enacted, That if any Body Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, Person or Persons, shall lay or cause to be laid any Pipe to communicate with any Pipe belonging to the said Company without the Consent of the said Company under their Common Seal first had and obtained, or use Burners of larger Dimensions or in any other Manner than he, she, or they shall contract to pay for, or shall supply any Inhabitant or other Person with any Part of such Gas, every Person so offending in any of the respective Premises, and being thereof convicted on the Oath of One credible Witness before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, shall for every separate Act or Offence forfeit and pay the said Company the Sum of Forty Shillings *per* Day for every Day such Pipe shall so remain, or such Excess be so committed, or such Supply furnished.

Penalty for wilfully damaging Pipes, &c.

LXXX. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall wilfully, maliciously, or negligently do or commit, or cause to be done or committed, any Injury or Damage to any of the Mains or Service Pipes of the said Company, either by removing or disturbing the Ground or Soil wherein or whereon the same is or are laid or placed, or by the Compression or subsequent settling or lowering the same at any Time or Times afterwards, or by any other Means whatsoever, or if any Person or Persons whomsoever shall wilfully or maliciously remove, destroy, damage, or injure any or any Part of any Pipe, Post, Plug, Lamp Glass, Burners, or other Apparatus, Matter, or Thing, Buildings, Works, or Appurtenances, of or belonging to the said Company, or shall wilfully or maliciously waste or improperly use any of the Inflammable Air or Gas supplied by the said Company, or shall alter, exchange, or remove the Burners from the Pipes of Supply, or shall use such Burners or consume such Gas beyond the Time stipulated and agreed upon, every Person so offending in any of the respective Premises, and being thereof convicted on the Oath of One credible Witness before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, shall for every separate Act or Offence forfeit and pay the said Company

Company any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and Three Times the Amount of the Damage to be done.

Satisfaction to be made for accidentally injuring Pipes, &c.

LXXXI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall carelessly, negligently, or accidentally break, throw down, remove, destroy, damage, or otherwise injure any or any Part of any Pipe, Plug, Lamp, Lamp Post, Lamp Iron, or other Apparatus, Matter, or Thing set up by or belonging to the said Company, or belonging to any Person or Persons, and set up by him, her, or them at his, her, or their private Expence, or waste any of the Inflammable Air or Gas supplied by the said Company, and shall not immediately, upon Demand by the said Company or their Committee or Superintendent, or other Person or Persons authorized by the said Company or their Committee, make Satisfaction for the Damage done or the Gas so wasted, then and in every such Case it shall be lawful for any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, and he or they is and are hereby required, upon Complaint to him or them made, to summon before him or them the Party or Parties against whom such Complaint shall be preferred, and upon hearing the Allegations and Proofs on both Sides, or on Nonappearance of the Party or Parties so complained against, to award such Sum or Sums of Money by way of Satisfaction to the said Company, or to such other Person or Persons, as the Case may require, for such Damages or Waste, as such Justice or Justices shall think reasonable; and in case of Refusal or Neglect to pay any Sum or Sums of Money so awarded, within Three Days after Demand, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices and he and they is and are hereby required to cause the same, with reasonable Costs, to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of such Person or Persons, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of such Justice or Justices, returning the Overplus (if any), on Demand, to the Owner of such Goods and Chattels.

Penalty for interrupting Company's Workmen.

LXXXII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall wantonly or maliciously hinder or interrupt, or cause or procure to be hindered or interrupted, the said Company, or their Deputies, Agents, Workmen, or Servants, or any of them, in doing and performing any of the Works or in exercise of any of the Powers and Authorities by this Act granted, every Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay to the said Company any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and also the full Amount of the Damage which shall be sustained by such Hindrance or Interruption.

Recovery of Compensation for Materials or for Damage done by the Company.

LXXXIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That when and as often as any Sum of Money shall be directed or ordered by any Justice or Justices of the Peace to be paid, in pursuance of the Directions of this Act, as or by way of Compensation or Satisfaction for any Materials, Costs, Damages, Spoil, or Injury of any Nature or Kind whatsoever done or committed by the said Company, or by any Person acting by or under their Authority, and such Sum or Sums of Money shall not be paid by the said Company to the Party or Parties entitled to receive the same within Fourteen Days after Demand in Writing shall have been made, stating the Order of such Justice or Justices, and delivered to the said Company or to their Treasurer, in pursuance of the Direction or Order made by such Justice or Justices; then and in such Case the Amount of such Compensation or Satisfaction shall and may be levied and recovered

by Action at Law against the said Company or their Treasurer, or by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the said Company or of their Treasurer for the Time being, or of the Goods and Chattels of the Party or Person required to pay the same Sum or Sums of Money (as the Case may be), under a Warrant to be issued for that Purpose by such Justice or Justices of the Peace, which Warrant any such Justice or Justices is and are hereby authorized and required hereby to grant, under his Hand and Seal or their Hands and Seals, on Application made to him or them for that Purpose by the Party or Parties entitled to receive such Sum or Sums of Money as or by way of Compensation or Satisfaction for any such Materials, Costs, Damages, Spoil, or Injury as aforesaid; and in case any Overplus shall remain after Payment of such Sum or Sums of Money, and the Costs and Expences of hearing and determining the Matter in dispute, and also the Costs and Expences of such Distress and Sale, then and in such Case such Surplus shall be returned, on Demand, to the said Company or their Treasurer for the Time being, or to such Party or Person (as the Case may be).

Damages and Charges, in case of Dispute, to be settled by Justices.

LXXXIV. And be it further enacted, That where by this Act any Damages or Charges are directed or authorized to be paid or recovered, in addition to any Penalty or Penalties for any Offence or Offences, the Amount of such Damages or Charges, in case of Dispute respecting the same, shall be settled, ascertained, and determined by the Justice or Justices of the Peace by or before whom any Offender shall be convicted of any such Offence or Offences, who is hereby authorized and required, on Nonpayment thereof, to levy such Damages or Charges by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, in manner directed by this Act for the levying of any Penalties or Forfeitures.

Rents in arrear how to be recovered.

LXXXV. And be it further enacted, That in case any Commissioners, Trustees, Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or other Person or Persons, who shall contract with the said Company, or agree to take, or shall use or enjoy the said Gas in any Streets, Roads, Ways, Passages, or Places, or in any private Grounds or Places, or in any public Halls, Shops, Inns, Taverns, Manufactories, Warehouses, Dwelling Houses, or other Buildings, or otherwise, shall refuse or neglect, for the Space of Ten Days after the Demand, to pay the Sum or Sums of Money then due under their, his, or her Contract for the same to the said Company, according to the Terms and Stipulations entered into by the said respective Parties with the said Company, it shall be lawful for the said Company, or any other Person or Persons acting by or under their Authority, to levy the said Sum or Sums of Money in respect whereof such Refusal or Neglect shall happen by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, so neglecting or refusing to pay the same, in like Manner as by Distress for Rent in arrear, rendering the Overplus (if any) to such Body or Bodies, Person or Persons, refusing or neglecting, after the necessary Charges of making such Distress and Sale shall be first deducted; or if such Sum or Sums of Money shall exceed the Sum of Twenty Pounds, then the same, with Costs of Suit, may be recovered in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager at Law, nor more than One Imparlance, shall be allowed; and it shall also be lawful for the said Company to cut off and take away the Supply of Gas

from

from the Streets, Roads, Way, Passages, Places, Halls, Shop, Inn, Tavern, Manufactory, Warehouse, Dwelling House, or other Building in respect of the Payment of which such Default shall be made for the Space of Ten Days after such Demand as aforesaid, and thenceforth to discontinue the Supply of Gas contracted for with the said Company by such Body or Bodies, Person or Persons.

How Debts may be proved in Cases of Bankruptcy.

LXXXVI. And be it further enacted, That in case any Fiat of Bankruptcy shall be awarded against any Person who shall be indebted to the said Company, or against whom the said Company shall have any Claim or Demand, it shall be lawful for any Person who shall from Time to Time in that Behalf be appointed, by Writing under the Hand of any Two or more of the Managers of the said Company for the Time being, to appear, and he is hereby authorized to appear and act on behalf of the said Company, in respect of any such Claim, Debt, or Demand, before the Commissioners, under any such Fiat in Bankruptcy, either personally or by his Affidavit, to be sworn and exhibited in the usual Manner, in order to prove and establish any such Debt, Claim, or Demand under such Fiat; and such Person so to be appointed shall in all such Cases be admitted and allowed to make Proof or tender a Claim under any such Fiat on behalf of the said Company in respect of such Debt, Claim, or Demand, and shall have such and the same Powers and Privileges as to voting in the Choice of Assignees and signing Certificates, and otherwise, in respect of any Debt admitted to be proved on behalf of the said Company, as any other Person being a Creditor of such Bankrupt in his own Right would have in respect of the Debt proved by him under such Fiat.

Recovery and Application of Penalties.

LXXXVII. And be it further enacted, That all Penalties and Forfeitures for all and every the Offences in this Act mentioned, the Manner of levying and recovering and the Application whereof is not herein particularly directed, or in relation to which the Manner of convicting the Offenders is not particularly mentioned or directed, shall be adjudged by and recovered before any Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County or Place where the Offence shall be committed, in and by the Oath of One or more Person or Persons, or on the Confession of the Party offending, (which Oath any such Justice is hereby authorized to administer,) and in default of Payment of such Penalties or Forfeitures the same shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal or Hands and Seals of such Justice or Justices; and one Half of the Penalties and Forfeitures, when recovered, after rendering the Overplus (if any), on Demand, to the Party whose Goods and Chattels shall be so distrained, the reasonable Charges of such Distress and Sale being first deducted, shall be paid to the Informer, and the other Half thereof to the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish or Place in which the Offence shall be committed, to be by them applied in aid of the Poor Rates of such Parish or Place; and in case such sufficient Distress cannot be found, and such Penalties and Forfeitures shall not be forthwith paid upon Conviction, then it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices to order the Offender or Offenders so convicted to be detained in safe Custody until Return can be conveniently made to such Warrant or Warrants of Distress, unless the said Offender or Offenders shall give sufficient Security to the Satisfaction of such Justice or Justices for his, her, or their Appearance before him or them on such Day or Days as shall be appointed for the Return of such Warrant

Warrant or Warrants of Distress, such Day or Days not being more than Ten Days from the Time of taking any such Security, and which Security such Justice or Justices is or are hereby empowered to take by way of Recognizance or otherwise; but if upon the Return of such Warrant or Warrants it shall appear that no such Distress can be had thereupon, or in case it shall appear to the Satisfaction of such Justice or Justices, either by the Confession of the Offender or Offenders or otherwise, that he, she, or they hath or have not sufficient Goods and Chattels whereon such Penalties, Forfeitures, Fines, and Charges can be levied if a Warrant of Distress were issued, such Justice or Justices shall not be required to issue such Warrant of Distress, and thereupon it shall be lawful for any such Justice or Justices, and he or they are hereby authorized and required, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal or their Hands and Seals, to commit such Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction for the said Borough of *Reading* or County of *Berks* for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Justices may proceed by Summons in the Recovery of Penalties.

LXXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases in which by this Act any Penalty or Forfeiture is imposed and made recoverable by Information before a Justice of the Peace it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace for the County or Place in which the Offence shall be committed, to whom Complaint shall be made of any Offence against this Act, to summon the Party complained against before him, and on such Summons to hear and determine the Matter of such Complaint, and on Proof of the Offence to convict the Offender, and to adjudge him to pay the Penalty or Forfeiture incurred, and proceed to recover the same, although no Information in Writing shall have been exhibited or taken by or before such Justice; and all such Proceedings by Summons without Information shall be as good, valid, and effectual to all Intents and Purposes as if an Information in Writing was or had been exhibited.

For securing Offenders whose Names and Residences are unknown.

LXXXIX. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Officer or Agent of the said Company, and all such Persons as he shall call to his Assistance, to seize and detain any Person, whose Name and Residence shall be unknown to such Officer or Agent, who shall commit any Offence against this Act, and to convey him before some Justice of the County or Place within which such Offence shall be committed, without any other Warrant or Authority than this Act, and such Justice is hereby empowered and required to proceed immediately to the hearing and determining of the Complaint.

Compelling Attendance of Witnesses.

XC. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall be summoned as a Witness or Witnesses before any Justice or Justices of the Peace touching any Matter contained in any Information or Complaint for any Offence against this Act, either instituted on behalf of the Prosecutor or on behalf of the Person or Persons accused, and shall refuse or neglect (without a reasonable Cause) to appear from Time to Time at the Time or Place to be for that Purpose appointed, after having been paid or tendered a reasonable Sum of Money for his, her, or their Costs and Expences, or appearing shall refuse to be examined upon Oath, or, in case of a Quaker or Quakers, on solemn Affirmation, (which Oath or Affirmation such Justice or Justices is and are hereby authorized and required to administer,) and to give Evidence before such Justice or Jus-

tices of the Peace, then and in every such Case every such Person shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds.

Managers empowered to grant Releases to Witnesses.

XCI. And be it further enacted, That in all Actions, Suits at Law or in Equity, and in all Proceedings under this Act, or otherwise, against or by or on behalf of the said Company, and in all Arbitrations, References, or other Proceedings in or consequent upon or arising out of any such Actions, Suits, or Proceedings, it shall be lawful for any Five or more of the Managers of the said Company to make, sign, seal, execute, and deliver such general or other Releases as may be or may be deemed necessary for the Purpose of exonerating, releasing, and discharging any Person who shall or may be produced as Witness in any such Action, Suit, Arbitration, Reference, or other Proceeding aforesaid, from any Claim or Demand which may be necessary to be released by the said Company so as to qualify such Person to give Evidence as a Witness in any such Action, Suit, Arbitration, Reference, or other Proceeding aforesaid, and also to do any other Act, Matter, or Thing in any such Action, Suit, Arbitration, Reference, or other Proceeding which any Plaintiff or Defendant may do in any Action, Suit, Arbitration, Reference, or other Proceeding; and every such Release, Act, Matter, and Thing shall be as valid and effectual in all respects, and to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, as if the same were made under the Seal of the said Company.

General Power to Justices to administer Oaths.

XCII. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases in which any Justice of the Peace is authorized by this Act to examine any Person, or to take cognizance of or to hear or determine any Matter or Complaint, it shall be lawful for such Justice and he is hereby required to administer an Oath to or to receive the Affirmation of any Person before he shall be examined by or before such Justice.

Form of Conviction.

XCIII. And for the more easy Conviction of Offenders against this Act, be it further enacted, That a Conviction in the Form or to the Effect following shall be good without alleging more than the Substance of the Offence; (that is to say,)

'} BE it remembered, That on the Day of
'to wit. } in the Year of our Lord is [*or* are] convicted
'before me [*or* us, *as the Case may be*,] of His Majesty's Justices
'of the Peace for the by virtue of an Act passed in the
'Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *William* the
'Fourth, intituled [*here insert the Title of this Act*] of having [*specifying*
'*the Offence, and the Time and Place when and where the same was com-*
'*mitted, as the Case may be,*] contrary to the said Act, and for which I
'[*or* we, *as the Case shall be*] do adjudge the said to have
'forfeited the Sum of . Given under my Hand and Seal,
'[*or, as the Case shall be,* our Hands and Seals,] the Day and Year first
'above written.'

Distress not unlawful for Want of Form.

XCIV. And be it further enacted, That where any Distress shall be made for any Sum or Sums of Money to be levied under the Authority of this Act the Distress itself shall not be deemed unlawful, nor shall the Party or Parties making the same be deemed a Trespasser or Trespassers, on account of any Defect or Want of Form in any Proceeding relating thereto,

thereto, nor a Trespasser or Trespassers *ab initio* on account of any subsequent Irregularity in the prosecuting of such Distress, but the Person or Persons aggrieved by such Irregularity may recover Satisfaction for special Damages by Action on the Case.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

XCV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That any Body or Bodies Politic, Corporate, or Collegiate, or any Person or Persons whomsoever, thinking himself, herself, or themselves aggrieved by the Order or Determination of any Justice or Justices of the Peace in pursuance of this Act, may appeal to the Justices of the Peace at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the County or Place where the alleged Cause of Appeal shall arise within Four Calendar Months after the Cause of Appeal shall have arisen, the Person or Persons appealing having first given at least Ten Days Notice in Writing of such Appeal, and the particular Nature and Matter thereof, to the Person or Persons appealed against, and forthwith after such Notice entering into a Recognizance before some Justice of the Peace for such County or Place, with Two sufficient Sureties, conditioned to try such Appeal, and to abide the Order and Award of the said Court thereon; and the said Justices, upon due Proof of such Notice or Recognizance having been given and entered into, shall in a summary Way hear and determine such Complaint at such General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or, if they think proper, may adjourn the Hearing thereof to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for such County or Place, and, if they see Cause, may mitigate any Forfeiture or Fine, and may order any Money to be returned which shall have been levied in pursuance of such Order or Determination, and shall and may also award such further Satisfaction to be made to the Party injured, or such Costs to either of the Parties, as they shall think reasonable and proper; and all such Determinations of the said Justices at such General or Quarter Sessions shall be binding, final, and conclusive upon all Parties to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

Proceedings to be within Six Calendar Months.

XCVI. And be it further enacted, That no Person or Persons, Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, shall be subject or liable to the Payment of any of the Penalties or Forfeitures inflicted by virtue of this Act for any Offence or Offences against this Act, unless Information respecting such Offence or Offences shall have been lodged before some Justice of the Peace within Six Calendar Months next after such Offence committed.

Proceedings not to be quashed for Want of Form, or removed by Certiorari.

XCVII. And be it further enacted, That no Proceedings to be had touching the Conviction of any Offender against this Act, or any Judgment or Determination to be made, or any other Matter or Thing to be done or transacted in or relating to the Execution of this Act, shall be vacated or quashed for Want of Form only, or be removed by Certiorari, or any other Writ or Process whatsoever, into any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Directions as to Services of Notices, &c.

XCVIII. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases wherein it may be requisite to serve any Notice or Notices upon the said Company, or any Writ or Writs or Summons or Summonses, or any Proceedings at Law or Proceedings in Equity, the Service of a Copy thereof upon the Clerk or Clerks to the said Company, or some Inmate at the Office of such Clerk or Clerks, or at his or their last or usual Place or Places of Abode, or at the Office of the said Company, or upon any known Agent

or

or other Officer employed by the said Company, or delivered to some Inmate at his last or usual Place of Abode, or in case there shall be no known Agent or other Officer employed by the said Company, then upon any One or more of the Managers of the said Company, or delivered to some Inmate at his or their last or usual Place of Abode, shall be deemed good and sufficient Service of the same respectively on the said Company.

Nothing in this Act to prevent Proceedings against the Company for a Nuisance.

XCIX. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent any Person or Persons from proceeding by Indictment or otherwise against the said Company, or any of their Officers, Servants, or Workmen, or any Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or any Person or Persons whomsoever, in respect of any Gas Works, or the Means which shall be employed in making or producing any Gas, or using the same, or furnishing such Light as aforesaid, as a public or private Nuisance, or from bringing any Action or Actions against the said Company, or any of their Officers, Servants, or Workmen, or any such Body or Bodies Politic or Corporate, or Person or Persons as aforesaid, for any Injury sustained by reason of any such Works, or the Use of the said Gas, or the Method of lighting therewith, whether such Injury shall proceed from the Preparation or Use of the same Gas, or their Method of lighting, or the Carelessness or Want of Skill of any of the Persons employed therein, or from any other Cause whatsoever.

Expences of this Act.

C. And be it further enacted, That all the Costs, Charges, and Expences attending the Application for, obtaining, and passing this Act shall be paid and discharged out of the Monies already subscribed or to be subscribed or raised by virtue of this Act, in preference to all other Payments whatsoever.

Powers of Commissioners of Pavement, &c. not to be obstructed.

CI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to defeat, abridge, alter, obstruct, or in any way interfere with the Powers and Authorities of the Commissioners or Directors or Trustees for lighting, improving, or paving the said Town of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof within the Borough of *Reading*, or of the Surveyors of the Highways of the respective Townships and Districts through which the same Mains and Pipes shall or may extend, or of the *Reading* Waterworks Company, or any other Body Corporate or Politic, Sole or Aggregate, established for the Supply of Water in or for the said Town of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof within the Borough of *Reading*, or any Part or Parts thereof, or the Rights of any Person or Persons to make, enlarge, repair, or amend any Vault or Sewer under any Street within the said Town of *Reading* and the Neighbourhood thereof within the Borough of *Reading*.

Public Act.

CII. 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.

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