ANNO TRICESIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LXVII.

An Act for better preventing Offences in obſtructing, deſtroying, or damaging Ships or other Veſſels, and in obſtructing Seamen, Keelmen, Caſters, and Ship Carpenters, from purſuing their lawful Occupations.—[17th *June* 1793.]

WHEREAS many Seamen, Keelmen, Caſters, and Ship Carpenters, have of late aſſembled themſelves in great Numbers, and have committed many Acts of Violence; which Practices, if continued, may occaſion great Loſs and Damage to Individuals, and injure the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom: For the better preventing ſuch violent and injurious Practices, and more effectually puniſhing ſuch Offenders, be it enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and Preamble.

with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Seamen, Keelmen, Casters, Ship Carpenters, or other Persons, riotously assembled together to the Number of Three or more, at any Time after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, in the present Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, shall unlawfully and with Force prevent, hinder, or obstruct the loading or unloading, or the sailing or navigating, of any Ship, Keel, or other Vessel, or shall unlawfully and with Force board any Ship, Keel, or other Vessel, with Intent to prevent, hinder, or obstruct the loading or unloading, or the sailing or navigating, of such Ship, Keel, or other Vessel, every Seaman, Keelman, Caster, Ship Carpenter, and other Person, being lawfully convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, upon any Indictment to be found against him, her, or them, in any Court of Oyer and Terminer, or General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden respectively, in and for the County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, wherein the Offence was committed, shall be committed either to the Common Gaol for the same County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, there to continue and remain without Bail or Mainprize, or to the House of Correction for the same County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, there to continue and remain without Bail or Mainprize, and to be kept to hard Labour for any Term not exceeding Twelve Calendar Months, nor less than Six Calendar Months, in either Case respectively.

Seamen, &c. riotously assembled who shall forcibly prevent the loading, &c. of any Vessels, &c. to be committed to Prison;

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, or other Person or Persons, at any Time after the said Twenty-fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, shall unlawfully and with Force prevent, hinder, or obstruct any Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, from working at, employing himself in, or exercising his lawful Trade, Business, or Occupation

as also any such Persons who shall forcibly prevent others from working, &c.

Occupation respectively, or shall wilfully and maliciously assault, beat, or wound, or use or commit any Bodily Violence or Hurt to or upon any Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, with Intent to deter, prevent, hinder, or obstruct such Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, from working at, employing himself in, or exercising his lawful Trade, Business, or Occupation respectively, every Seaman, Keelman, Caster, Ship Carpenter, and other Person, being lawfully convicted of any of the Offences last-mentioned, upon any Indictment to be found against him, her, or them, in any Court of Oyer and Terminer, or General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden respectively in and for the said County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, wherein the Offence was committed, shall be committed, either to the Common Gaol for the same County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, there to continue and remain, without Bail or Mainprize, or to the House of Correction for the same County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, there to continue and remain, without Bail or Mainprize, and to be kept to hard Labour, for any Term not exceeding Twelve Calendar Months, nor less than Six Calendar Months, in either Case respectively.

Persons offending a Second Time, to be guilty of Felony.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Seaman, Keelman, Caster, Ship Carpenter, or other Person, shall be convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, in pursuance of this Act, and shall afterwards offend again in like Manner, every such Seaman, Keelman, Caster, Ship Carpenter, and other Person so offending again in like Manner, and being lawfully convicted thereof, upon any Indictment to be found against him, her, or them, in any Court of Oyer and Terminer, or General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace respectively to be holden in and for the County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District, wherein the Offence was committed, shall, for such Second and every subsequent Offence, be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall be transported to some of his Majesty's Dominions

tions beyond the Seas, for any Space of Time or Term of Years, not exceeding Fourteen Years, nor less than Seven Years.

Act not to extend to Matters done by the Authority of His Majesty.

IV. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That none of the Pains, Penalties, or Punishments herein-before inflicted, or authorized to be inflicted, shall be deemed, construed, or taken to extend to any Act, Deed, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, committed, done, or suffered in the Service, or under or by virtue of the Authority of His said Majesty, or His Successors; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding.

Seamen, &c. wilfully setting Fire to any Ship, to suffer Death;

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, or other Person or Persons, shall, at any Time after the said Twenty-fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, wilfully and maliciously burn or set Fire to any Ship, Keel, or other Vessel, every Person so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted, in any Court of Oyer and Terminer, to be holden in and for the County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District wherein the Offence was committed, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and shall suffer Death as in Cases of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

and destroying or damaging them by any other Means, to be transported.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Seaman or Seamen, Keelman or Keelmen, Caster or Casters, Ship Carpenter or Ship Carpenters, or other Person or Persons, shall at any Time after the said Twenty-fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, wilfully and maliciously destroy or damage any Ship, Keel, or other Vessel (otherwise than by Fire), every Seaman, Keelman, Caster, Ship Carpenter, and other Person so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted upon any Indictment to be found against him, her, or them, in any Court of Oyer and Terminer, or General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden respectively, in and for the County, Shire, Riding, Division, or District wherein the Offence

was

was committed, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall be transported to some of His Majesty's Dominions beyond the Seas, for any Space of Time or Term of Years not exceeding Fourteen Years, nor less than Seven Years.

Offences committed on the High Seas triable in any Session for trial of Offences committed thereon.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any of the Offences herein-before described or mentioned, shall be committed on the high Seas, then, and in every such Case, the Offence or Offences so committed shall be triable, and the Person or Persons so offending may be prosecuted and tried by virtue of this Act, in any Session of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery for the Trial of Offences committed on the high Seas, within the Jurisdiction of the Admiralty of England; any Thing herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Prosecutions to be commenced within a Year.

VIII. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no Person or Persons shall be prosecuted by virtue of this Act, for any of the Offences aforesaid, unless such Prosecution be commenced within Twelve Calendar Months after the Offence committed.

Continuance of Act.

IX. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall continue in Force until the Twenty-fourth Day of June, which shall be in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred, and from thence to the End of the then next Session of Parliament, and no longer.

FINIS.