

ANNO VICESIMO QUARTO & VICESIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

****

CAP. LIII.

An Act to provide that Votes at Elections for the Universities may be recorded by means of Voting Papers. [1st *August* 1861.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to afford greater Facilities for voting to the Electors at Elections for Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Universities of *Oxford*, *Cambridge*, and *Dublin*: Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Electors to vote by means of Voting Papers.

1. It shall be lawful for such Electors, in lieu of attending to vote in Person, to nominate any other Elector or Electors of the same University, competent to make the Declaration herein-after mentioned, to deliver for them at the Poll Voting Papers containing their Votes, as by this Act provided. Every such Voting Paper shall bear Date subsequently to Notice given by the Returning Officer of the Day for proceeding to Election, and shall contain the Name or Names of the Candidate or Candidates thereby voted for, and the Name or Names of the Elector or Electors authorized on behalf of the Voter to tender such Voting Paper at the Poll, and shall be according to the Form or to the Effect prescribed in the Schedule to this Act annexed. Such Voting Paper, the aforesaid Date and Names being

 previously

previously filled in, shall, on any Day subsequent to Notice given by the Returning Officer of the Day for proceeding to Election, be signed by the Voter in the Presence of a Justice of the Peace for the County or Borough in which such Voter shall be then residing; and the said Justice shall certify and attest the Fact of such Voting Paper having been so signed in his Presence, by signing at the Foot thereof a Certificate or Attestation in the Form or to the Effect prescribed in the said Schedule, with his Name and Address in full, and shall state his Quality as a Justice of the Peace for such County or Borough.

Voting Papers to be read, and Votes recorded.

2. The Voting Paper, signed and certified as aforesaid, may be delivered to the Vice Chancellor of the University for which the Election is held, or to any Pro Vice Chancellor appointed by him, or, in the Case of the University of *Dublin*, to the Provost of *Trinity College*, or to any Person lawfully deputed to act for him, at any One of the appointed Polling Places, during the appointed Hours of Polling, by any One of the Persons therein nominated in that Behalf, who shall, on tendering such Voting Paper at the Poll, read out the same; and the said Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, Provost, or Deputy shall receive the Voting Papers as the same shall be delivered, and shall cause the Votes thereby given, or such of them as may not appear to be contrary to the Provisions of this Act, to be recorded in the Manner heretofore used, in all respects as if such Votes had been given by the Electors attending in Person; and all Votes so recorded shall have the same Validity and Effect as if they had been duly given by the Voters in Person: Provided always, that no Person shall be entitled to sign or vote by more than One Voting Paper at any Election, and that no Voting Paper containing the Names of more Candidates than there are Burgesses to be elected at such Election shall be received or recorded: Provided also, that no Voting Paper shall be received or recorded unless the Person tendering the same shall make the following Declaration, which he shall sign at the Foot or Back thereof:

'I solemnly declare, that I am personally acquainted with *A. B.* '[the Voter], and I verily believe that this is the Paper by 'which he intends to vote pursuant to the Provisions of the Uni- 'versities Elections Act.'

Provided also, that no Voting Paper shall be so received and recorded if the Voter signing the same shall have already voted in Person at the same Election: Provided also, that every such Elector shall be entitled to vote in Person, notwithstanding that he has duly signed and transmitted a Voting Paper to another Elector, if such Voting Paper has not been already tendered at the Poll.

3. It

Voting Papers may be inspected by any Person now entitled to object to Votes.

3. It shall be lawful for any Person now by Law or Custom authorized on behalf of any Candidate to object to Votes to inspect any Voting Paper tendered at the Poll before the same shall be received or recorded, and to object to it on One or more of the following Grounds:

1. That the Person on whose Behalf the Voting Paper is tendered is not qualified to vote:
2. That the Person tendering the Voting Paper is not duly qualified in that Behalf:
3. That the Person in whose Behalf the Voting Paper is tendered has already voted at that Election in Person or by Voting Paper:
4. That the Voting Paper bears Date anterior to Notice given by the Returning Officer of the Day for proceeding to Election:
5. That the Voting Paper is forged or falsified:

And the Returning Officer, his Deputy or Assessor, or any Officer having by Law or Custom Power to decide Objections in respect of Votes tendered by Voters attending the Poll in Person, shall have Power to put Questions to the Person tendering such Voting Paper, and to reject, receive, and record, or receive and record as objected to or protested against, any Votes tendered by Voting Papers: Provided, that in case the Objection offered to any Voting Paper shall be that it is forged or falsified, such Returning or other Officer shall receive and record such Voting Paper, having previously written upon it, "Objected to as forged," or "Objected to as falsified," together with the Name of the Person making such Objection.

Voting Papers to be filed.

4. All Voting Papers received and recorded at such Election, as well as any Voting Papers rejected for Informality or on any other Ground, shall be filed and kept by the Officer entrusted with the Care of the Poll Books or other Documents relating to the said Election; and any Person shall be allowed to examine such Voting Papers at all reasonable Times, and to take Copies thereof, upon Payment of a Fee of One Shilling.

Penalty for falsely signing Voting Papers.

5. Any Person falsely or fraudulently signing any Voting Paper in the Name of any other Person, either as a Voter or as a Witness, whether such other Person shall be living or dead, and every Person signing, subscribing, endorsing, attesting, certifying, tendering, or transmitting as genuine any false or falsified Voting Paper, knowing the same to be false or falsified, and any Person falsely making any such Declaration as aforesaid, or such Declaration as is contained in the Schedule, or with fraudulent Intent altering, defacing, destroying, withholding, or abstracting any Voting Paper,

Paper, and any Person wilfully making a false Answer to any Question put to him by the Returning or other Officer as herein-before provided, shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and punishable by Fine, or Imprisonment for a Term not exceeding One Year.

Voting Papers not liable to Stamp Duty.

6. No such Voting Paper as herein-before mentioned shall be liable to any Stamp Duty.

SCHEDULE.

UNIVERSITY ELECTION, 18 .

I *A.B.* [*the Christian and Surnames of the Elector in full, his College or Hall, if any, and his Degree or Academical Rank or Office, if any, to be here inserted*], do hereby declare, that I have signed no other Voting Paper at this Election, and do hereby give my Vote at this Election for

And I nominate - *C.D.*
E.F.
G.H.

or One of them, to deliver this Voting Paper at the Poll.

Witness my Hand this Day of 18 .

(Signed) *A. B.* of [*the Elector's Place of Residence to be here inserted*].

Signed in my Presence by the said *A.B.*, who is personally known to me, on the above-mentioned Day of 18 , the Name [*or* Names] of as the Candidate [*or* Candidates] voted for having been previously filled in.

(Signed) *Z.M.* of [*the Witness's Place of Residence to be here inserted,*]
a Justice of the Peace for .

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