

ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

CAP. XXVIII.

An Act for abolishing the *African* Company, and transferring to and vesting in His Majesty all the Forts, Possessions, and Property now belonging to or held by them. [7th *May* 1821.]

WHEREAS an Act passed in the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for extending and improving the Trade to* Africa: And whereas another Act passed in the Twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the Application of a Sum of Money therein mentioned, granted to His Majesty for making Compensation and Satisfaction to the Royal* African *Company of* England, *for their Charter, Land, Forts, Castles, Slaves, Military Stores, and all other Effects whatsoever; and to vest the Lands, Forts, Castles, Slaves, and Military Stores, and all other their Effects, in the Company of Merchants trading to* Africa; *and for other Purposes in the Act mentioned:* And whereas another Act passed in the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for repealing an Act made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled* 'An 'Act for repealing the Act made in the last Session of Parliament, 'intituled "An Act for vesting the Fort of Senegal and its Dependen- "cies in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa;" and to vest as 'well the said Forts and its Dependencies, as well as all other the 'British

23 G. 2. c. 31.

25 G. 2. c. 40.

23 G. 3. c. 65.

British *Forts and Settlements upon the Coast of* Africa, *lying between the Port of* Sallee *and* Cape Roque, *together with all the Property, Estate, and Effects of the Company of Merchants trading to* Africa, *in or upon the said Forts, Settlements, and their Dependencies, in His Majesty; and for securing, extending, and improving the Trade to* Africa;' *and for vesting* James Fort *in the River* Gambia, *and its Dependencies, and all other the* British *Forts and Settlements between the Port of* Sallee *and* Cape Roque, *in the Company of Merchants trading to* Africa; *and for securing and regulating the Trade to* Africa: And whereas in pursuance of the said several recited Acts of Parliament, the whole of the Forts and Settlements upon the Gold Coast of *Africa*, held and occupied by His Majesty's Subjects, have become vested in the Body Corporate of the Company of Merchants trading to *Africa*, created by the said first recited Act of the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Second, and have been governed and managed by Officers and Servants appointed by them; but the whole Expence of such Management has, for many Years past, been entirely defrayed by Sums granted by Parliament for the Support of the said Forts and Settlements, the said Company having, in their corporate Capacity, no Funds whatever out of which any Part of such Expences could be defrayed, and having no beneficial Interest in the said Forts or Settlements: And whereas it is expedient that the Company of Merchants trading to *Africa* should relinquish the Government and Management of the said Forts and Possessions, and should surrender the same to His Majesty; and it is therefore necessary that the said Company, created by the said recited Act of the Twenty-third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, should cease and be wholly abolished as a Body Corporate and Politic, and that all the said Forts and Settlements, and all the Property and Effects of the said Company therein, should vest in His Majesty, and that His Majesty should be enabled to grant such reasonable Allowances as He may see fit, to such of the Officers and Servants of the said Company who may not be retained in the Government or Management of any of the said Forts, or otherwise employed in His Majesty's Service, as His Majesty should deem just and reasonable, and for charging the Allowances so granted upon the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Third Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, the said Corporation of the Company of Merchants trading to *Africa* shall wholly cease and determine and be abolished, and the said Company of Merchants trading to *Africa* shall no longer be or be deemed to be a Body Politic or Corporate; and all Grants made to the said Company by or under or in pursuance of the said recited Acts of Parliament, or any or either of them, or in pursuance of any thing therein contained, shall and the same are hereby declared to be henceforth null and void; and the said Company shall be, and they are hereby divested of and from all Forts, Castles, Buildings, Possessions, or Estate or Rights, which were given

The African Company shall be abolished, and the Possessions shall vest in His Majesty.

to the said Company by or under or in pursuance of the said recited Acts, or any or either of them, or which have been since purchased or otherwise acquired by the said Company in addition thereto, or which now are possessed or claimed or held by the said Company on the said Coast; and the said Forts, Castles, Buildings, Possessions, Estate and Rights, so acquired, possessed, enjoyed or claimed, or now held by the said Company, shall henceforth be, and the same and every of them are and are hereby declared and enacted to be, fully and absolutely vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors for ever.

His Majesty may grant Allowance to Officers of the Company who may not be continued in Employment, and charge the same upon the Consolidated Fund:

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty to grant such reasonable Allowances as His Majesty may deem just and fit, to such of the Officers and Servants of the said Company as may appear deserving of the same, and may not be retained in the Government or Management of any of the said Forts, Castles, or Possessions of the said Company, or may not be otherwise employed in His Majesty's Service, and to charge the same upon the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; which Allowance, when so granted, shall commence from the Time of the respective Persons to whom the same may respectively be granted ceasing to be employed in the Management of any of the said Forts, Castles, or Possessions, or otherwise in His Majesty's Service, and shall be payable and paid quarterly after such Commencement respectively, at the Receipt of the Exchequer at *Westminster*, out of the said Consolidated Fund, free and clear of and from all Taxes, Charges, and other Deductions whatsoever; but that no such Allowance shall be considered as finally and conclusively granted until the same shall have been first submitted to Parliament: Provided always, that if any Officer or Servant of the said Company, to whom any such Allowance may in the first Instance be granted under the Provisions of this Act, should be afterwards appointed to any Office or Employment in His Majesty's Service, of equal or greater Emolument, such Allowance shall, from the Date of such Appointment, altogether cease and determine; but if the said Office or Employment be of less Emolument, a Deduction shall in such Case be made from such Allowance, equal to the Amount of the Salary and Emoluments of such Office or Employment.

If afterwards appointed, Allowance to be reduced.

The Possessions held by the African Company, and also the Territories belonging to His Majesty on the West Coast of Africa between the 20th Degrees of North and South Latitude, shall be annexed to Sierra Leone.

III. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty to order and direct that all or any of the Forts and Possessions herein-before mentioned, and also any Territories, Islands, or Possessions on the West Coast of *Africa*, between the Twentieth Degree of North Latitude and the Twentieth Degree of South Latitude, which now do or at any Time hereafter shall or may belong to His Majesty, shall be annexed to or made Dependencies on the Colony of *Sierra Leone*; and that from the Date of their being so annexed or made Dependencies on the said Colony, they shall be subject to all such Laws, Statutes, and Ordinances as shall be in force in the said Colony, or as shall at any Time thereafter be made, enacted, or ordained by the Governor and Council of the said Colony, and shall not be disallowed by His Majesty, in the same Manner as if the said Forts, Possessions, Territories,

Territories, or Islands had originally formed Part of the said Colony of *Sierra Leone*.

Act may be altered this Session

IV. And be it further enacted, That this Act, or any of the Provisions thereof, may be altered, varied, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be made in this Session of Parliament.

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