

Anno 3^o Geo. III. Cap. 14.

An Act for the Encouragement of John Harrison, to publish and make known his Invention of a Machine or Watch, for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea.

WHEREAS by an act made in the twelfth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intituled An act for providing a public reward for such person or persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, it is enacted, That in case the commissioners thereby appointed shall be so far satisfied of the probability of any such discovery as to think it proper to make experiment thereof, and shall certify the same to the commissioners of the navy, with the names of the persons making proposals for that purpose, then any sum or sums of money not exceeding two thousand pounds shall be paid by the treasurer of the navy to such person or persons as shall be appointed by the commissioners of the longitude to make those experiments; and it is thereby further enacted, That the first discoverer or discoverers of any method for finding the longitude shall have a reward of ten thousand pounds, if it determines the longitude to one degree of a great circle, or sixty geographical miles; fifteen thousand pounds, if to two thirds of
that

See 5 Geo. III.

C. 20.

12 Ann. st. 2.

C. 15.

that distance ; and twenty thousand pounds, if to one half of the same distance ; to be paid by the treasurer of the navy, by the appointment of the said commissioners, when a ship should sail to any such part of the West Indies as they should appoint without losing the longitude beyond the limits before mentioned ; and it is thereby further enacted, That if any proposal should, in the judgement of the said commissioners, be found of considerable use to the public, the author thereof should have such less reward as the said commissioners should think reasonable : and whereas by an act made in the twenty sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the second, to render more effectual the act herein before recited with regard to making experiments of proposals for discovering the longitude, reciting the aforesaid act, and that John Harrison had made proposals for the purposes in the same act mentioned, with which the commissioners of longitude were so far satisfied that they had thought it proper to make experiments thereof, and had certified the same from time to time to the commissioners of the navy, together with the name of the said John Harrison ; and that the treasurer of the navy had thereupon paid one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds to the said John Harrison, as part of the two thousand pounds mentioned in the abovesaid act of the twelfth of Queen Anne ; and also reciting, that five hundred pounds had likewise been paid to master William Whiston for the like purposes ; so that only two hundred and fifty pounds remained out of the said sum of two thousand pounds ;

and

^{26 Geo. II.}
C. 25.

and further reciting, That by continuing to encourage ingenious persons to make further improvements and experiments in order to discover the longitude, such discovery might at length be produced as might effectually answer that end; it is enacted, That two thousand pounds more might be issued and paid by the treasurer of the navy for the making further experiments under the like directions as aforesaid: and whereas by an act made in the second year of his present Majesty's reign for rendering more effectual the above-mentioned act of the twelfth year of Queen Anne, with regard to making experiments of proposals for discovering the longitude, reciting to the effect above recited; and that the money granted for making experiments, pursuant to both of the said acts, had been wholly expended; the further sum of two thousand pounds was granted by the said act of the second year of his present Majesty for the like purposes, and to be applied in the like manner: And whereas the utility of the invention of the said John Harrison has been proved in a late voyage to Jamaica under the directions of the commissioners of the longitude: and whereas the said commissioners at their meeting on the seventeenth day of August last did adjudge, that by the trial made of the said instrument it was found of considerable use to the public, and did thereupon make an order for the payment of the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds to the said John Harrison, in manner therein mentioned; videlicet, one thousand five hundred pounds, part thereof, immediately, and the remaining one thousand pounds when
be,

2 Geo. III.
e. 18.

be, or any person employed by him, should return from making a further trial in the West Indies; but it was to be understood, that the said sum of two thousand five hundred pounds should be esteemed as part of either of the rewards granted by act of parliament for discovering the longitude: and whereas the said John Harrison has accordingly received the said sum of one thousand five hundred pounds; and has represented to the commissioners of the longitude, that he would not by any means decline any further trial of the instrument or watch which he has invented, before the principles thereof shall be made public; but that his present advanced age, the weakness of his sight, and the danger of the voyage to the health and life of his son, upon whom alone the success of the said invention will depend, may risk the loss of so useful a discovery, not only to the disadvantage of the said John Harrison, but also to the very great detriment of mankind: and whereas the commissioners of longitude having received the said representation, did, at their meeting on the twenty sixth day of February last, unanimously agree to recommend to the said John Harrison to make an application to parliament, in order that his said invention may be made known to the public, upon such terms and in such manner as to the parliament shall seem meet: Therefore, 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 so soon as the said John Harrison his executors or administrators,

Upon a discovery by *J. Harrison* of the principles of his watch, and method of constructing it, to the committee,

and their publishing the same,

and certifying such discovery to the commissioners of the navy;

they are to make out bills for 5,000*l.*

administrators, shall make or cause to be made a full and clear discovery of the principles of his said instrument or watch for discovery of the longitude, and of the true manner and method in which the same is and may be constructed, unto the right honourable lord *Charles Cavendish*, the right honourable the earl of *Morton*, the right honourable lord *Willoughby* of *Parham*, *George Lewis Scott* esquire fellow of the royal society, master *James Short* fellow of the royal society, the reverend master *John Michell Woodwardian* professor at *Cambridge*, master *Alexander Cumming*, master *Mudge* of *Fleet Street*, master *William Frodsham*, master *Andrew Dickie*, and master *James Green* of *Fenchurch Street*, who, as well as the said *John Harrison*, are hereby required to publish and make the same known, so that other workmen may be enabled to make other such instruments or watches for the same purpose; and so soon as the said lord *Charles Cavendish*, the earl of *Morton*, lord *Willoughby* of *Parham*, *George Lewis Scott*, *James Short*, *John Michell*, *Alexander Cumming*, master *Mudge*, *William Frodsham*, *Andrew Dickie*, and *James Green*, or the major part of them, shall certify in writing under their hands and seals, to the commissioners of his Majesty's navy for the time being, that the said *John Harrison* hath fully and clearly made the said discovery for the purposes aforesaid; then, upon producing such certificate, the said commissioners of the navy are hereby authorized and required to make out a bill or bills for the sum of five thousand

thousand pounds, payable to the said *John Harrison* his executors or administrators, by the treasurer of the navy: which sum the treasurer of the navy for the time being is hereby required to pay immediately to him the said *John Harrison* his executors or administrators, out of any money that shall be in his the said treasurer's hands unapplied for the use of the navy.

payable to him by the treasurer of the navy.

II. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so soon as it shall appear by future trial or trials, that the said instrument or watch invented by the said *John Harrison*, shall be a proper method for finding out the longitude within any of the limits prescribed by the aforesaid act of the twelfth year of *Queen Anne*, and the said commissioners of longitude, or the major part of them, shall certify the same accordingly under their hands and seals to the commissioners of the navy for the time being, then the said commissioners are hereby authorized and required to make out a bill or bills for the respective sum or sums of money to which the said *John Harrison* his executors administrators or assigns shall be intitled by virtue of the same act; which sum or sums the treasurer of the navy is hereby required to pay to the said *John Harrison* his executors administrators or assigns, out of any money which shall be in his hands unapplied to the use of the navy; first deducting thereout the before mentioned sum of fifteen hundred pounds already received by the said *John Harrison*, and the said sum of five thousand

When the said instrument appears to be proper for finding the longitude, within the limits of 12 *Annæ*, and the commissioners of the longitude shall certify the same;

bills are to be made out payable as aforesaid for the sums granted by the said act,

deducting the sums received.

land pounds granted to him by this present act as
aforesaid.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority
aforesaid, That no person or persons, other than
the said *John Harrison* his executors administra-
tors or assigns, shall have or be intitled to any of
the reward granted by the said act of the twelfth
of *Queen Anne*, by means or on account of any
instrument or instruments for keeping time, until
the merits of the said instrument or watch, in-
vented by the said *John Harrison*, shall be ascer-
tained; provided that the ascertainment thereof
shall be made within four years next after the pas-
sing of this act.

No other per-
son to have a
reward under
that act for
any instru-
ment for
keeping time,
till the merits
of *Harrison's*
watch be as-
certained.

Anno