

Anno 5^{to} Geo. III. Cap. 20.

An Act for explaining and rendering more effectual Two Acts, One made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Queen Anne, intituled, An Act for providing a public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea; and the other in the Twenty sixth Year of the Reign of King George the Second, intituled, An Act to render more effectual 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, with regard to the making Experiments of Proposals made for discovering the Longitude; and to enlarge the Number of Commissioners for putting in Execution the said Act.

12 Ann. St. 2.
c. 12.

WHEREAS by two several acts made, the one in the twelfth year of the reign of her late Majesty

Majesty Queen Anne, intituled An act for providing a public reward for such person or persons as shall discover the longitude at sea, and the other in the twenty sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the second, intituled An act to render more effectual 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, with regard to the making experiments of propofals made for discovering the longitude, and to enlarge the number of commissioners for putting in execution the said act, the commissioners named in and constituted by the said acts, were empowered to receive propofals for discovering the said longitude, and make experiments of the same; and whereas by the said act of the twelfth of Queen Anne, it was enacted, That the first author or authors, discoverer or discoverers, of a proper method for finding the said longitude within certain distances, should be intitled to and receive certain rewards therein mentioned; that is to say, a reward or sum of ten thousand pounds, if it determines the said longitude to one degree of a great circle, or sixty geographical miles; fifteen thousand pounds, if it determines the same to two thirds of that distance; and twenty thousand pounds, if it determines the same to one half the same distance: and whereas in and by the said act it was further enacted, That if, upon trial, any propofal for discovering the said longitude should not prove to be of so great use as before mentioned, yet if the

same,

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

same, in the judgement of the said commissioners, or the major part of them, should be found of considerable use to the public, then the said author or authors of such proposal should receive such less reward as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, should think reasonable: And whereas the said commissioners have, from time to time, in pursuance of the powers vested in them by the said act, received proposals from Mr. John Harrison for discovering the said longitude, by means of certain machines or time keepers invented by him, and have directed several sums of money to be paid to the said John Harrison to enable him to finish his said machines or time keepers, or some of them, upon condition of his delivering the same up to and for the use of the public: and whereas the said John Harrison did, by direction of the said commissioners, enter into articles with the commissioners of the navy, whereby he agreed, in consideration of the sums so advanced to him, to deliver up the three several machines or time keepers in the said articles mentioned: and whereas, upon trial of one other watch machine or time keeper in a voyage to Jamaica, the major part of the said commissioners did adjudge the same to be of considerable use to the public, and did accordingly order the payment of the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds to the said John Harrison, which sum was to be deemed and taken as part of such of the rewards, in and by the said act allowed for discovering the said longitude, as he might become intitled to, and as such has been by him received; and the said watch or time keeper was to become the property

perty of the public : and whereas upon a further trial of the said last mentioned watch or time keeper, a ship has sailed, by the appointment of the commissioners for the discovery of the longitude, from Portsmouth in Great Britain, to Bridgetown in the island of Barbadoes in the West Indies ; and whereas, by means of the said watch or time keeper invented by Mr. John Harrison, the said ship did not lose it's longitude beyond ten geographical miles : and whereas the method for finding the longitude at sea, within half a degree of a great circle, or thirty geographical miles, by means of the said watch or time keeper invented by the said John Harrison, may be made generally practicable, and of general utility, if the principles upon which the said watch or time keeper is constructed are fully discovered and explained, and other watches or time keepers of the same kind can be made ; but doubts may arise, whether, by the words of the said act of the twelfth of Queen Anne, the said commissioners can direct the payment of the said reward of twenty thousand pounds to the said John Harrison, upon a discovery of the principles of the said watch or time keeper, and upon other watches or time keepers of the same kind being made : And whereas great progress has been made towards discovering the longitude at sea by a set of lunar tables constructed by Tobias Mayer deceased, late professor at Goetingen in Germany, upon the principles of gravitation laid down by sir Isaac Newton ; in the construction of which tables he was considerably assisted from theorems furnished by professor Euler of the university of Berlin :

lin : and whereas the said tables are of considerable use to the public, and may be further improved, and made of more general utility : and whereas the widow, or other representatives of the said professor Mayer, are, within the intention of the said act, deserving of a public reward, upon her or their assigning the property of the said tables to the said commissioners for the use of the public ; and the said professor Euler is also deserving of an honorary and pecuniary acknowledgement for his useful and ingenious labours towards the discovery of the longitude : And whereas it is necessary that the powers of the said act of the twelfth year of Queen Anne, and also of the said act of the twenty sixth year of King George the second, should be explained and made effectual, as well for receiving the discovery and explanation of the principles upon which the said watch or time keeper is constructed, and for making trial of other watches or time keepers to be made in consequence thereof, and for paying the said reward to the said John Harrison, his executors administrators or assigns, as for giving proper rewards to the said professor Euler, and to the widow or representatives of the said professor Mayer, and to such person or persons as shall improve the said tables of the moon, and make the same of more general utility ; and also to such person or persons as shall make other discoveries or improvements useful to navigation : 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,

Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That one moiety of the greatest reward which is directed in and by the said act made in the twelfth year of the reign of Queen *Anne*, to be paid to the first author or authors, discoverer or discoverers, of a proper method for finding the said longitude at sea, shall be paid to the said *John Harrison*, his executors administrators or assigns, when and so soon as the principles upon which his said watch or time keeper is constructed are fully discovered and explained to the satisfaction of the said commissioners for the discovery of the longitude, or the major part of them; and when and so soon as the said *John Harrison* hath assigned to the said commissioners, for the use of the public, the property of the three several time keepers, which in and by the said articles he agreed to deliver up, and also the property of the said last mentioned watch or time keeper, deducting from and out of the said moiety, so to be paid to the said *John Harrison*, his executors administrators or assigns, the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds already advanced and paid to him; and that the other moiety of the said greatest reward mentioned in the said act shall, when and so soon as other time keepers of the same kind shall be made, and shall, upon trial, be found to be of a sufficient correctness to determine the said longitude within half a degree of a great circle, or thirty geographical miles, to the satisfaction of the said

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10,000*l.* to be paid, as a present reward, to Mr. *John Harrison*,

upon his discovering the principles of his time keeper, and assigning the property of 3 of them, and the watch, for the public;

deducting 2,500*l.* already advanced,

and other 10,000*l.* to be paid when other time keepers are made, and proved to be sufficiently correct.

commissioners, or the major part of them, be paid to the said *John Harrison*, his executors administrators or assigns.

Discovery to be made within six months.

II. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said master *John Harrison* shall not be intitled, by virtue of any thing contained in this act, to the said reward, or any part thereof, unless the discovery and explanation of the principles upon which his said time keeper is constructed, shall be made within six months after the passing of this act.

300 l. to be paid to professor Euler;

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a reward or sum of money, not exceeding three hundred pounds in the whole, shall be paid to the said professor *Euler*.

and 3,000 l. to the widow of professor *Mayer*, upon assigning the property of his latest MS. lunar tables.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a reward or sum of money, not exceeding three thousand pounds in the whole, shall be paid to the widow or other representatives of the said professor *Mayer*, upon her or their assigning the property of the set of the latest manuscript lunar tables, constructed by the said *Tobias Mayer*, to the said commissioners, to and for the use of the public.

5,000 l. proposed to any who shall improve the said tables,

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any reward or rewards, sum or sums of money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of five thousand pounds, shall and may be paid to such person or persons as shall improve the said tables of the Moon; or that shall make any discovery or discoveries, improvement or improvements,

or make any discovery or improvement useful to navigation.

ments, useful to navigation: which said reward or rewards, sum or sums of money, shall and may be paid to such person or persons, and in such proportion or proportions, as the said commissioners shall, from time to time, think proper and direct.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority
 aforeaid, That all the clauses powers authorities
 matters and things contained in any or either of
 the said two acts, made in the twelfth year of the
 reign of Queen *Anne*, and in the twenty sixth year
 of the reign of King *George* the second, not alter-
 ed by this act, shall continue in full force, and ex-
 tend, and be construed to extend, to this act, as
 fully and amply as if again repeated and re-enact-
 ed in the body of this present act: And that all
 and every the reward or rewards, sum or sums of
 money, by this act granted and allowed, shall,
 from time to time, be certified under the hands
 and seals of the said commissioners for the disco-
 very of the longitude, to the commissioners of the
 navy for the time being: and the commissioners
 of the navy for the time being shall make out a
 bill or bills for the sum or sums contained in the
 said certificate or certificates, payable by the trea-
 surer of the navy: and such sum or sums of mo-
 ney the said treasurer of the navy is hereby re-
 quired to pay immediately to the person or per-
 sons mentioned in the said certificate or certifi-
 cates, out of any money that shall be in his hands
 unapplied for the use of the navy, in such and the
 same manner, and according to the same rules and
 directions

12 Ann. ft. 2.
 c. 12. and
 26 Geo. 2.
 c. 25. conti-
 nued.

Rewards of
 this act to be
 certified by
 the commis-
 sioners for the
 longitude to
 the commis-
 sioners of the
 navy.

directions as are prescribed in and by the said two recited acts, or either of them, with regard to any reward or rewards, sum or sums of money, allowed to be given and paid in and by the said acts, or either of them.

Reward exceeding 1000*l.* to be certified by the majority of the commissioners; under that sum by five.

VII. Provided always, That all and every such reward or sum of money that shall exceed the sum of one thousand pounds, shall be certified under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or the major part of them; but in case such reward or sum of money shall not exceed the sum of one thousand pounds, then, and in that case, it shall and may be certified under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or any five or more of them.

Commissioners for the longitude may administer oaths.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners for the discovery of the longitude, or the major part of them, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, for their better satisfaction, if they shall see occasion, to administer an oath or oaths to such person or persons as they shall think proper for the purposes of carrying this act into execution; which oath or oaths it shall and may be lawful to and for any two or more of the said commissioners to administer accordingly.

IX. *And whereas, since the passing of the said act of the twelfth of Queen Anne, another professorship for the purpose of astronomy has been established in the university of Cambridge; be it therefore enacted,*

That

That the *Lowndes's* professor of astronomy in the university of *Cambridge* for the time being shall be, and he is hereby added to and joined with the commissioners appointed by the said act of the twelfth of *Queen Anne*, and by another passed in the twenty sixth year of *King George* the second; and the said professor of astronomy is hereby appointed a commissioner, and shall and may act, to all intents and purposes, for putting in execution the said acts and this present act, as fully and effectually as if he had been appointed a commissioner by the said acts of the twelfth of *Queen Anne*, and of the twenty sixth of *King George* the second, or either of them.

Lowndes's professor of astronomy in *Cambridge* made a joint commissioner for the longitude.

X. *And whereas the publication of Nautical Almanacks constructed by proper persons, under the direction of the said commissioners, would greatly contribute to make the said lunar tables more generally useful; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners to cause such Nautical Almanacks, or other useful tables, to be constructed; and to print publish and vend, or cause to be printed published and vended, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other useful table or tables, which they, or the major part of them, shall from time to time judge necessary and useful in order to facilitate the method of discovering the longitude at sea; any law, statute, exclusive privilege, private charter, or other custom, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.*

Publication of Nautical Almanacks, &c. recommended.

XI. *And*

None to print
them but such
as be licensed,

XI. And be it enacted by the authority afore-
said, That no person or persons shall print publish
or vend, or cause to be printed published or vend-
ed, any Nautical Almanack or Almanacks, or other
table or tables constructed under the direction of
the said commissioners, without being first licensed
by the said commissioners, or the major part of
them. And if any person or persons not so licensed,
or not being authorized by the person or persons
so licensed by the said commissioners, shall print
publish or vend, or cause to be printed published
or vended, any such Nautical Almanack or Alma-
nacks, or other table or tables, every such person
or persons shall, for every copy of such Nautical
Almanack or table so printed published or vended,
forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds; to be
recovered by action of debt bill plaint or informa-
tion in any of his Majesty's courts of record at
Westminster; and that one moiety of such penalty
and forfeiture shall be to his Majesty his heirs and
successors, and the other moiety to him or them
that shall prosecute inform or sue for the same.

under penalty
of 20*l.* for
every copy.

Anno