

THE following Act of Parliament, passed in the present Sessions; and which takes Place on the **FIRST** of **JUNE** next, is printed for the Information of the Merchants of Great Britain and Ireland trading to North America; viz.

An Act to discontinue, in such Manner and for such Time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, at the Town, and within the Harbour, of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America.

WHEREAS dangerous Commotions and Insurrections have been fomented and raised in the Town of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, by divers ill-affected Persons, to the Subversion of His Majesty's Government, and to the utter Destruction of the publick Peace, and good Order of the said Town; in which Commotions and Insurrections certain valuable Cargoes of Teas, being the Property of the East India Company, and on Board certain Vessels lying within the Bay or Harbour of Boston, were seized and destroyed: And whereas, in the present Condition of the said Town and Harbour, the Commerce of His Majesty's Subjects cannot be safely carried on there, nor the Customs payable to His Majesty duly collected; and it is therefore expedient that the Officers of His Majesty's Customs should be forthwith removed from the said Town: May it 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 First Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons whatsoever to lade or put, or cause or procure to be lade or put, off or from any Quay, Wharf, or other Place, within the said Town of Boston, or in or upon any Part of the Shore of the Bay, commonly called the Harbour of Boston, between a certain Headland or Point called Nahant Point, on the Eastern Side of the Entrance into the said Bay, and a certain other Headland or Point called Alderton Point, on the Western Side of the Entrance into the said Bay, or in or upon any Island, Creek, Landing-Place, Bank, or other Place, within the said Bay or Headlands, into any Ship, Vessel, Lighter, Boat, or Bottom, any Goods, Wares, or Merchandise whatsoever, to be transported or carried into any other Country, Province, or Place whatsoever, or into any other Part of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England; or to take up, discharge, or lay on land, or cause or procure to be taken up, discharged, or laid on land, within the said Town, or in or upon any of the Places aforesaid, out of any Boat, Lighter, Ship, Vessel, or Bottom, any Goods, Wares, or Merchandise whatsoever, to be brought from any other Country, Province, or Place, or any other Part of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, upon Pain of the Forfeiture of the said Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, and of the said Boat, Lighter, Ship, Vessel, or other Bottom into which the same shall be put, or out of which the same shall be taken, and of the Guns, Ammunition, Tackle, Furniture, and Stores, in or belonging to the same: And if any such Goods, Wares, or Merchandise, shall, within the said Town, or in any

the Places aforesaid, be lade or taken in from the Shore into any Barge, Hoy, Lighter, Wherry, or Boat, to be carried on Board any Ship or Vessel outward-bound to any other Country or Province, or other Part of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, or be lade or taken into such Barge, Hoy, Lighter, Wherry, or Boat, from or out of any Ship or Vessel coming in and arriving from any other Country or Province, or other Part of the said Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, such Barge, Hoy, Lighter, Wherry, or Boat, shall be forfeited and lost.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Wharfinger, or Keeper of any Wharf, Crane, or Quay, or their Servants, or any of them, shall take up or land, or knowingly suffer to be taken up or landed, or shall ship off, or suffer to be waterborne, at or from any of their said Wharfs, Cranes, or Quays, any such Goods, Wares, or Merchandise; in every such Case, all and every such Wharfinger, and Keeper of such Wharf, Crane, or Quay, and every Person whatever who shall be assisting, or otherwise concerned in the shipping or in the loading or putting on Board any Boat, or other Vessel, for that Purpose, or in the unshipping such Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, or to whose Hands the same shall knowingly come after the loading, shipping, or unshipping thereof, shall forfeit and lose Treble the Value thereof, to be computed at the highest Price which such Sort of Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, shall bear at the Place where such Offence shall be committed, at the Time when the same shall be so committed, together with the Vessels and Boats, and all the Horses, Cattle, and Carriages, whatsoever made use of in the shipping, unshipping, landing, removing, Carriage, or Conveyance of any of the aforesaid Goods, Wares, and Merchandise.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Ship or Vessel shall be moored or lie at Anchor, or be seen hovering within the said Bay, described and bounded as aforesaid, or within One League from the said Bay so described, or the said Headlands, or any of the Islands lying between or within the same, it shall and may be lawful for any Admiral, Chief Commander, or Commissioned Officer, of His Majesty's Fleet or Ships of War, or for any Officer of His Majesty's Customs, to compel such Ship or Vessel to depart to some other Port or Harbour, or to such Station as the said Officer shall appoint, and to use such Force for that Purpose as shall be found necessary: And if such Ship or Vessel shall not depart accordingly, within Six Hours after Notice for that Purpose given by such Person as aforesaid, such Ship or Vessel, together with all the Goods lade on Board thereon, and all the Guns, Ammunition, Tackle, and Furniture, shall be forfeited and lost, whether Bulk shall have been broken or not.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to any Military or other Stores for His Majesty's Use, or to the Ships or Vessels whereon the same shall be lade, which shall be commissioned by, and in the immediate Pay of, His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors; nor to any Fuel or Victual brought Coastwise from any Part of the Continent of America, for the necessary Use and Sustainance of the Inhabitants of the said Town of Boston, provided the Vessel wherein the same are to be carried shall be duly furnished with a Cocket and Let pass, after having been duly searched by the proper Officers of His Majesty's Customs at Marblehead, in the
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