

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the last session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for the further regulation of the Duties on Postage, until the 5th day of October 1840," power is given to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, by warrant under their hands, to alter, fix, reduce, or remit all or any of the rates of British or Inland or other Postage payable by law on the transmission of Post Letters, and to subject such letters to rates of postage according to the weight thereof, and a scale of weight to be contained in such warrant (without reference to the distance or number of miles the same may be conveyed), and to fix and limit the weight of letters to be sent by the Post; and, from time to time, by warrant as aforesaid, to alter or repeal any such altered or reduced rates, and make and establish any new or other rates in lieu thereof; and, from time to time, by warrant as aforesaid, to appoint at what time the rates which may be payable are to be paid, that is to say, whether on posting the letter or on the receipt thereof, or at either of those times, at the option of the sender; and, by the same Act, power is also given to the Lords of the Treasury, by warrant under their hands, to suspend, wholly or in part, any Parliamentary or official privilege of sending and receiving Letters by the Post free of postage, or any other franking privilege of any description whatsoever; provided, that all such warrants should be inserted in the London Gazette ten days, at least, before coming into operation, and should, within fourteen days after making the same, be laid before both Houses of Parliament (if then sitting), or otherwise, within fourteen days after Parliament should meet:

And whereas by a warrant, under the hands of three of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, dated the 22d day of November 1839, the said Lords Commissioners did, in exercise of the power or authority for such purpose vested in them by the said Act, and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, fix and limit the scale of weight therein mentioned of letters to be transmitted through the General Post, and they subjected and charged such letters, on and after the 5th day of December then next and now instant, to the rates of postage therein mentioned, and they thereby made the several other orders and regulations respecting the conveyance of letters by the Post therein contained; and they thereby declared, that it should be lawful for the Lords Commissioners, for the time being, of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any three of them, by warrant under their hands at any time thereafter, to alter or repeal any of the rates thereby altered, or the regulations thereby made, and to make and establish any new or other rates or regulations in lieu thereof, and, from time to time, to appoint at what time the rates that might be payable were to be paid.

Now, we the undersigned (being three of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury), do, in exercise of the power or authority in us for such purpose vested in and by the said Act and warrant, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, by this warrant, under our hands, order and direct, that the said warrant, of the 22d day of November now last, and the rates thereby

fixed and directed to be charged, shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed from and after the 9th day of January 1840 (except as to any Letters posted in or brought into the United Kingdom on or before that day, and also except as to any duties of postage which shall have become due under or by virtue of such warrant, which may be recovered as if the same had continued in force.)

And we hereby further order and direct, that this present warrant shall come into operation on the 10th day of January 1840; and that all Letters which, on or after that day, shall be posted in any town or place within the United Kingdom, or shall be brought from parts beyond the seas to any port or place within the United Kingdom, or shall be sent between the United Kingdom and places beyond the seas, or between any of the other places hereinafter mentioned, shall be subject to the several regulations and rates hereinafter contained.

And we further order and direct, that Letters transmitted by the Post shall not in future be charged with the British rates of postage, according to the number of inclosures, but by weight, as hereinafter mentioned.

And we hereby fix and limit the following scale of weight of Letters to be transmitted by the Post, and we subject such Letters, on and after the said 10th day of January 1840, to the following rates of Postage (that is to say):

On every Letter, not exceeding half an ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken one rate of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding half an ounce, and not exceeding one ounce in weight, there shall be charged and taken two rates of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding one ounce, and not exceeding two ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken four rates of postage.

On every Letter, exceeding two ounces, and not exceeding three ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken six rates of postage.

And on every Letter, exceeding three ounces, and not exceeding four ounces in weight, there shall be charged and taken eight rates of postage.

And for every ounce in weight above the weight of four ounces, there shall be charged and taken two additional rates of postage; and every fraction of an ounce, above the weight of four ounces, shall be charged as one additional ounce.

And we order and direct, that no Letter exceeding sixteen ounces in weight shall, in any case, be forwarded by the Post between places within the United Kingdom, except addresses to Her Majesty, Parliamentary petitions, printed votes and proceedings in Parliament, Letters addressed to, or despatched by, any of the Government offices or departments, or any public officer having now the privilege of franking by virtue of his office, deeds, if transmitted under all such regulations and restrictions as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time appoint, and letters to and from places beyond the seas.

And we hereby fix and limit the following rates of Postage to be paid to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the use of Her Majesty, on Letters posted and transmitted by the Post, on and after the