

or Stocks, the transferring or pretending to transfer or assign any Share or Shares in such Stock or Stocks, without legal Authority, either by Act of Parliament or any Charter from the Crown, to warrant such acting as a Body Corporate, or to raise such transferrable Stock or Stocks, or to transfer Shares therein; and all acting, or pretending to act under any Charter formerly granted from the Crown for particular or special Purposes therein expressed, by Persons, who should use, or endeavour to use the same Charters for raising a Capital Stock, or for making Transfers or Assignments or pretended Transfers or Assignments of such Stock, not intended or designed by such Charter to be raised or transferred; and all acting or pretending to act under any obsolete Charter become void or voidable by Nonuser or Abuser, or for want of making lawful Elections, which were necessary to continue the Corporation thereby intended should (as to all or any such Act, Matters and Things, as should be done, attempted and proceeded upon after the said Twenty fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and twenty) for ever be deemed to be illegal and void, and should not be practised or in any wise put in Execution. And it is in and by the said Act further enacted, that from and after the said twenty fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and twenty, all such unlawful Undertakings and Attempts, so tending to the common Grievance and Prejudice and Inconvenience of our Subjects in their Trade, Commerce and other lawful Affairs; and the making or taking of any Subscriptions for that Purpose, the receiving or paying any Money upon such Subscriptions, the making or accepting of any Assignment or Transfer, or pretended Assignment or Transfer of any Share or Shares upon any such Subscription, and all and every other Matter or Thing whatsoever, for furthering, countenancing or proceeding in any such unlawful Undertaking or Attempt; and more particularly the presuming or pretending to act as a Corporate Body, or to raise a transferrable Stock or Stocks, or to make Transfers or Assignments of any Share or Shares therein, without such legal Authority, as aforesaid; and all acting or pretending to act under any Charter formerly granted from the Crown for any special Purposes, by Persons making or endeavouring to make use of such Charter for any such other Purpose not thereby intended; and all acting, or pretending to act under such obsolete Charter as is before described and every of them (as to all or any such Acts, Matters or Things, as should be so done, attempted, or proceeded upon after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and twenty) should be deemed to be a publick Nuisance and Nuisances; and the same, and all Causes, Matters and Things relating thereto and every of them, should for ever, hereafter be tried and determined as common Nuisances; and all Offenders therein, being thereof lawfully convicted upon Information or Indictment, in any of our Courts of Record at Westminster, or in Edinburgh, or in Dublin, should be liable to such Fines, Penalties and Punishments, whereunto Persons

convicted for common and publick Nuisances are by any of the Laws and Statutes of this Realm subject and liable; and moreover should incur and sustain such further Pains, Penalties, and forfeitures as were ordained and provided by the Statute of Provision and Premunire, made in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of King Richard the Second. And it is in and by the said Act further enacted, that if any Merchant or Trader, at any time after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and twenty, should suffer any particular Damage in his, her, or their Trade, Commerce, or other lawful Affairs, by Occasion or Means of any Undertaking or Attempt Matter or Thing, by the said Act declared to be unlawful as aforesaid and should sue to be relieved therein, that then, and in every such Case, such Merchant or Trader should and might have his and their Remedy for the same by an Action or Actions to be grounded upon the said Statute, against the Persons Societies or Partnerships, or any of them, who, contrary to the said Act, should be engaged or interested in any such unlawful Undertaking or Attempt; and in every such Action the Plaintiff should recover treble Damages with full Costs of Suit. And it is in and by the said Act further enacted, that if any Broker, or Person acting as a Broker, for himself or in behalf of any others, at any time or times after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and twenty, should bargain, sell, buy or purchase or contract or agree for the bargaining, selling, buying or purchasing of any Share or Interest in any of the Undertakings by the said Act declared to be Unlawful or in any Stock or pretended Stock of such Undertakers, that then and in every such Case every such Broker or Person acting as such, should not only be disabled and rendered incapable to be or act as a Broker for the future, but should also lose and forfeit the Sum of five hundred Pounds, to be recovered one Moiety thereof to the Use of us, our Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety thereof to the Use of any Person or Persons who should inform or sue for the same in any of our said Courts of Record, with full Costs of Suit; as by the said Act, amongst other Clauses and Things therein contained, more at large may appear. And whereas we are deeply sensible of the many mischievous Consequences that must inevitably ensue from the unwarrantable Practices in the said Act mentioned, by ensnaring and defrauding unwary Persons to their utter Impoverishment and Ruin, by taking off the Minds of many of our Subjects from attending their lawful Employments, and by introducing a general Neglect of Trade and Commerce, upon which the Wealth and Prosperity of our Kingdoms so much depend, the Promoting and Encouragement whereof we have always at Heart; and we being determined, for the Reasons aforesaid, to cause the said Act to be effectually put in Execution; but being also willing and desirous that none of our loving Subjects should be ignorant of the same, nor unwarily subject themselves to the Forfeiture of their Lands and Tenements, Goods, and Chattels, and Imprisonment