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*ABSTRACT of several Acts of Parliament, now in Force, which were made for preventing His Majesty's Subjects from Trading to the East-Indies, under Foreign Commissions; and from being interested or concerned in any Foreign East-India Company to be erected.*

**B**Y the following Acts of Parliament now in Force, and which were made, for preventing His Majesty's Subjects from Trading to the East-Indies, under Foreign Commissions; and from being interested, or concerned, in any Foreign East-India Company, to be erected; it is Enacted as follows, *viz.*

*5th Geo. I. Cap. 21.]* By an Act passed in the 5th Year of His late Majesty, King George the First, all His Majesty's Subjects, except those Licensed by the East-India Company, are prohibited from going to the East-Indies. — And to the End such Offenders may be brought to Justice, the East-India Company are empowered to arrest, and seize, such Offenders in the East-Indies, and to send them to England, there to answer for the said Offence; And every British Subject, who shall procure, solicit for, obtain, or act under, any Commission, Authority, or Pass, from any Foreign Prince, or State, to sail, or go, or trade, in, or to the East-Indies, incurs, and forfeits, for every such Offence, 500 l.

*7th Geo. I. Cap. 21.]* By another Act passed in the 7th Year of His late Majesty King George the First, every Subject of His Majesty, who shall go to, or shall Trade, or Adventure into, or from, the East-Indies, (contrary to the Laws in being,) and shall be convicted thereof, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record, at Westminster, is to pay, and suffer such Fine, and Imprisonment, as the Court shall think fit.

And all the Goods, and Merchandize, that shall be bartered or traffick'd for, in the East-Indies, or purchased there, by any such Offenders, or that shall be found in his Custody, or in the Custody of any other Person, by his Order, or Procurement, are declared to be forfeited, with Double the Value thereof.

*9th Geo. I. Cap. 26.]* By an Act passed in the 9th Year of His late Majesty King George the First, all His Majesty's Subjects are prohibited from subscribing, contributing to, encouraging, or promoting, the raising, establishing, or carrying on, any Foreign Company, from, and after, the 24th Day of June 1723, to be raised, formed, or erected, for Trading to the East-Indies, and from being interested in, or intitled to, any Share in the Stock, or Capital, of such Foreign Company, under Forfeiture of all his, her, or their Interest, in the Capital, Principal, Stock, or Actions, of any such Foreign Company, together with Treble the Value thereof.

And the Attorney General is empowered to exhibit Bills of Complaint in the Court of Chancery, or Court of Exchequer, against such Offenders, for the Discovery of such Offence; which Discovery such Offenders are obliged to make on the Attorney General's waving in such Bill, the said Forfeiture of the Treble Value, and insisting only on the Single Value thereof; And in such Case, the Single Value is to be decreed to be paid by such Offender.

And that every Subject of His Majesty accepting of any Trust, or knowing of any Interest, Share, Part, Proportion, or Concern, which any other of His Majesty's Subjects shall have, or be intitled to, in any such Foreign Company; and who shall not, within Six Months, next after the Accepting such Trust, or coming to the Knowledge of such Interest, Share, Proportion, or Concern, as aforesaid, truly discover the same in Writing to the East-India Company, or their Court of Directors, shall forfeit Treble the Value of the Interest so accepted in Trust, or so known and not discovered, as aforesaid; and any Person making such Discovery, is intitled to a Moiety of the Forfeiture.

And all His Majesty's Subjects, (other than such as are lawfully authorized thereunto,) going to, or found in the East-Indies, are declared guilty of a High Crime, and Misdemeanor, and are made liable to Corporal Punishment, Imprisonment, or Fine, for the same, at the Discretion of such of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, where the Prosecution for such Offence shall be commenced.