

CHAP. LXVI.

An Act for the Repeal of all former Acts concerning the Longitude at Sea, except so much thereof as relates to the Appointment and Authority of the Commissioners thereby constituted, and also such Clauses as relate to the constructing, printing, publishing, vending, and licensing of Nautical Almanacks, and other useful Tables; and for the more effectual Encouragement and Reward of such Person and Persons as shall discover a Method for finding the same, or shall make useful Discoveries in Navigation; and for the better making Experiments relating thereto.

12 Ann. stat. 2.
c. 13.

14 G. 3. c. 39.

16 G. 3. c. 23.

2 G. 3. c. 18.

3 G. 3. c. 16.

3 G. 3. c. 11.

3 G. 3. c. 30.

10 G. 3. c. 34.

WHEREAS an Act was 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;* and also another Act was made in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled *An Act for surveying the Chief Ports and Headlands on the Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Islands and Plantations thereto belonging, in order to the more exact Determination of the Longitude and Latitude thereof;* and also another Act was made in the Twenty sixth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty, 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; and also another Act was made in the Second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for rendering 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 making Experiments of Proposals made for discovering the Longitude;* and also another Act was made in the Third Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the Encouragement of John Harrison to publish and make known his Invention of a Machine or Watch, for the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea;* and also Two other Acts were made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, the one intituled *An Act for rendering 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 the other, intituled *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; and also another Act was made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for rendering more effectual several Acts, for providing a public Reward for discovering the Longitude at Sea; for improving the Lunar Tables constructed by the late Professor Mayer; and for encouraging Discoveries and Improvements useful to Navigation: And whereas it is highly expedient to encourage, by further Rewards, such other Methods and Experiments as may conduce to the Discovery of the Longitude at Sea, and promote farther*

Improvements and Discoveries in Navigation; and to make more effectual Regulations for the examining, trying, and judging of all Proposals, Experiments, and Improvements relating thereto: 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, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That each and every of the said recited Acts (save and except such Clause and Clauses in each or any of them as relate to the Appointment or Authority of all or any of the Commissioners thereby respectively constituted, and also such Clause and Clauses as relate to the constructing, printing, publishing, vending, and licensing of Nautical Almanacks, and other useful Tables), shall, from and after the Twenty fourth Day of June One thousand seven hundred and seventy four, be, and are hereby repealed.

How far re-
pealed.

II. And for a due and sufficient Encouragement to any Person or Persons who shall discover any Method or Methods for finding the said Longitude, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the first Author or Authors, Discoverer or Discoverers, of each and every such Method or Methods, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be entitled to, and have the Rewards or Sums of Money hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, in case the Method proposed shall be by Means of a Time-keeper, the Principles whereof have not hitherto been made public, to the Reward or Sum of Five thousand Pounds (^l), if such Method determines the said Longitude to One Degree of a great Circle, or Sixty Geographical Miles; to the Reward or Sum of Seven thousand five hundred Pounds, if it determines the same to Two Thirds of that Distance; and to the Reward or Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, if it determines the same to One Half of the said Distance: Which respective Rewards shall be due and paid when such Method shall have been sufficiently tried by the following Experiments and Voyages to be made and performed by such Persons, and under such Restrictions, as the said Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude at Sea, respectively constituted by the above recited Acts, or the major Part of them, shall think fit to appoint and direct; (that is to say) when and so soon as Two or more Time-keepers, of the same Construction, shall have been tried at the same Time, for the Space of Twelve Months, at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, then in Two Voyages round the Island of Great Britain, in contrary Directions, and in such other Voyages to different Climates as the said Commissioners shall think fit to direct and appoint; and after their Return from such Voyages, or any of them, for such longer Time, at the said Observatory, not exceeding Twelve Months, as the said Commissioners shall judge necessary; and also when and so soon as the said Commissioners, or Two Thirds of them, at the least, shall after such Experiments and Voyages have been made and performed as aforesaid, have declared and determined that such Method is generally practicable and useful, and sufficiently exact to determine the Longitude at Sea within the Degrees or Limits aforesaid, in all Voyages for the Space of Six Months (Impediments from cloudy and hazy Weather excepted); and also when and so soon as the Principles and Practice of such Method are fully discovered and explained to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or Two thirds of them at least; and such Author or Authors, Discoverer or Discoverers, shall have delivered up and assigned over to the said Commissioners, for the Use of the Public, the absolute Property of such Time-keepers as shall have been tried by such Experiments and Voyages as aforesaid, together with all Places, Descriptions, Theories, and Explanations belonging or relating to the same, and which shall contain the Whole of such Discovery of the Longitude; and in case the Method proposed shall be by Means of improved Solar and Lunar Tables, then and in such Case, the Author or Authors of such improved Solar and Lunar Tables, their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be entitled to and have the Reward or Sum of Five thousand Pounds, if such Solar and Lunar Tables shall prove sufficiently exact to shew the Distance of the Moon from the Sun and Stars in the Heavens, within Fifteen Seconds of a Degree, answering to about Seven Minutes of Longitude, after making an Allowance of Half a Degree for the Errors of Observation; and when it shall appear to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or Two Thirds of them, at least, that such Tables are constructed entirely upon the Principles of Gravitation laid down by Sir Isaac Newton, (except with respect to those Elements which must necessarily be taken from astronomical Observations), and also when the Truth of such Tables shall have been further confirmed and proved by Comparison with a Series of astronomical Observations made during a Period of Eighteen Years and a Half, which is deemed the Period of the Irregularities of the Lunar Motions; which Reward shall be due and paid, when the said Commissioners, or Two Thirds of them, at least, shall have declared and determined that such Tables are sufficiently exact to shew the Distance of the Moon from the Sun and Stars in the Heavens, within the Limits above mentioned; and also when the Author or Authors of such improved Solar and Lunar Tables, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall have delivered up, and assigned over to the said Commissioners, for the Use of the Public, the absolute Right and Property to, and in the same, together with the Theory relating thereto; and in case any other Method shall be proposed for finding the Longitude at Sea besides those before mentioned, that then and in such Case, the first Author or Authors, Discoverer or Discoverers, of any such Method, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be entitled to and have the Reward or Sum of Five thousand Pounds, if it shall determine the said Longitude within One Degree of a great Circle, or Sixty Geographical Miles; to the Reward or Sum of Seven thousand five hundred Pounds, if it shall determine the same to Two Thirds of that Distance; and to the Reward or Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, if it shall determine the same to One Half of the same Distance; which respective Rewards shall be due and paid so soon as the said Commissioners, or Two Thirds of them, at least, shall, after proper Trial has been made by their Appointment and Direction, have determined that such Method shall be generally practicable and useful for finding the Longitude at Sea within the respective Limits above mentioned.

Rewards.

Timekeeper.

When to be paid.

Improved Solar
and Lunar
Tables.When to be
paid.Any other
Methods.When to be
paid.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as any such Method or Methods for the Discovery of the said Longitude, shall be tried as before mentioned, and found practicable

Treasurer of
Navy to pay
Rewards.

on Certificates from Commissioners to Commissioners of the Navy, who are to make out Bills upon Treasurer.

and useful at Sea, and sufficiently exact to determine the Longitude within any of the Degrees or Limits aforesaid, the said Commissioners, or Two Thirds of them, shall certify the same; under their Hands and Seals, to the Commissioners of the Navy for the Time being, together with the Name or Names of the Person or Persons who shall be the Author or Authors of such Method or Methods; and upon the Receipt of such Certificate, the said Commissioners of the Navy are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treasurer of the Navy, for the respective Sum or Sums of Money to which the Author or Authors of such Proposals, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be entitled by virtue of this Act; which Sum or Sums the said Treasurer is hereby required to pay to the said Author or Authors, their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns accordingly, out of any Money that may be in Hands unapplied to the Use of the Navy, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Commissioners of Longitude to certify Debts incurred by former Acts to Commissioners of the Navy.

IV. And whereas the several Sums of Money granted by the above now-recited Acts, towards making Experiments or Proposals for discovering the Longitude at Sea, and for improving the Lunar Tables, and making other Discoveries or Improvements useful to Navigation, are, by reason of the several Payments made by the Treasurer of the Navy, pursuant to the Directions of the said Acts, not only expended, but moreover several Debts have been incurred, and are now growing due for Services tending to the Benefit of Navigation, and more particularly for defraying the Expence of the Two Observers who have been sent out to make nautical and astronomical Observations in the Southern Hemisphere: And whereas it is highly necessary that the said Debts should be discharged, and that ingenious Persons should be encouraged to make further Discoveries and Improvements useful to Navigation: Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the above mentioned Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude at Sea shall and may certify the Amount of such Debts, together with the Names of the Persons to whom the same shall be respectively due, under their Hands and Seals, to the Commissioners of the Navy, who are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treasurer of the Navy, for such Sum or Sums of Money as may be necessary for discharging the said Debts; which Sum or Sums of Money the said Treasurer is hereby required to pay to the Person or Persons to whom the same shall be respectively due, out of any Money which shall be in his the said Treasurer's Hands unapplied as aforesaid.

To receive Proposals for discovering Longitude,

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude at Sea, or any Five or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority to hear and receive any Proposal or Proposals that shall be made to them for discovering the said Longitude, or for making any other useful Improvement in Navigation; and in case the said Commissioners, or any Five or more of them, shall be so far satisfied of the Probability of any such Discovery or Improvement as to think it proper to cause Experiments to be made thereof, they shall certify the same, together with the Names of the Author or Authors of such Proposal or Proposals, under their Hands and Seals, to the Commissioners of the Navy, who are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treasurer of the Navy for any such Sum or Sums of Money as the said Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude at Sea, or any Five or more of them, shall think necessary for making such Experiments; which Sum or Sums the Treasurer of the Navy is hereby required to pay immediately to such Person or Persons as shall be appointed by the said Commissioners to make those Experiments, out of any Money which shall be in his the said Treasurer's Hands unapplied as aforesaid. (1)

and certify Names, &c.

Treasurer of the Navy to pay.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall make any Discovery for finding the Longitude at Sea, which, though not of so great use as to be entitled to any of the great Rewards above specified, shall nevertheless be adjudged by the said Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude at Sea, or the major Part of them, to be of considerable Use to the Public, or shall make any other Discovery or Discoveries, Improvement or Improvements, useful to Navigation; then and in such Case such Person or Persons, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall from Time to Time have and receive such less Reward, or Sum or Sums of Money, as the said Commissioners or the major Part of them shall think reasonable, and certify accordingly, under their Hands and Seals, to the Commissioners of the Navy, who are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treasurer of the Navy for any such Sum or Sums of Money, which the said Treasurer is hereby authorized and required to pay immediately to such Person or Persons, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, out of any Money that shall be in his the said Treasurer's Hands unapplied as aforesaid.

In what other Cases less Rewards to be given.

On Certificates of Commissioners.

VII. Provided always, That all such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Navy by virtue hereof, as well for the Purpose of discharging the several Debts which have been incurred, and are now growing due for Services tending to the Benefit of Navigation, as of making such Experiments as aforesaid, and of rewarding in a lesser Degree lesser Discoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, and also other Discoveries and Improvements useful to Navigation, do not altogether exceed the Sum of Five thousand Pounds: And also provided, that in case any such Reward or Sums of Money to be given for any of those Purposes shall not exceed the Sum of One thousand Pounds, that then and in such case it shall and may be certified to the Commissioners of the Navy as aforesaid, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners for the Discovery of Longitude, or any Five or more of them; but if it shall exceed the Sum of One thousand Pounds, that then it shall be certified by the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them.

Sums payable by Treasurers of Navy not to exceed 5000*l*.

No Person to receive more than greatest Sum.

VIII. Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted, That in case any Person or Persons who shall and may have received any Sum or Sums of Money, by virtue of this Act, as a Reward for any Method of discovering the Longitude at Sea, shall afterwards become entitled to any of the greater Rewards appointed by this Act, for or on account of the same Method; that then and in such case such Sum or Sums of Money as they shall or may have received as aforesaid, shall be considered as Part of such greater Reward, and deducted therefrom accordingly; and that no Person shall receive more in the Whole for any one Method for discovering the Longitude at Sea than the greatest Reward appointed for such Method by this Act. (1)

IX. 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 Longitude at Sea, or the major Part of them, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, for their better Satisfaction, if they 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; and in case any such Person or Persons shall wilfully swear falsely and untruly, every such Person shall be liable to, and suffer the Pains and Penalties inflicted by the several Statutes made and now in force against wilful Perjury. (1)

Commissioners to administer Oath.