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Anno Decimo A N N Æ Reginae.

An Act to Prevent the Disturbing those of the Episcopal Communion in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland, in the Exercise of their Religious Worship, and in the Use of the Liturgy of the Church of England; And for Repealing the Act passed in the Parliament of Scotland, Intituled, Act against Irregular Baptisms and Marriages.

WHEREAS since the Abolishing of Episcopal Government in Scotland, those of the Episcopal Perswasion there, have been frequently Disturbed and Interrupted in their Religious Assemblies, and their Ministers Prosecuted for Reading the English Service in their Congregations, and for Administering the Sacraments, according to the Form and Manner prescribed in the Liturgy of the Church of England; Be it therefore Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall be Free and Lawfull for all those of the Episcopal Communion, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, to Meet and Assemble for the Exercise of Divine Worship, to be performed after their own Manner by Pastors Ordained by a Protestant Bishop, and who are not Established Ministers of any Church or Parish, and to Use in their Congregations the Liturgy of the Church of England; if they think fit, without any Let, Hindrance, or Disturbance from any Person whatsoever, And all Sheriffs of Shires, Stewards of Stewartries, and Magistrates of Boroughs, and Justices of the Peace, are hereby strictly Required to give all manner of Protection, Aid, and Assistance to such Episcopal Ministers, and those of their own Communion, in their Meetings and Assemblies for the Worship of God, held in any Town or Place, except Parish-Churches, within the Extent and Jurisdiction of that part of Great Britain called Scotland.

Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That none shall presume to Exercise the Function of a Pastor in the said Episcopal Meetings and Congregations, except such as shall have received Holy Orders from the Hands of a Protestant Bishop; and that every Person who shall be called or appointed to be a Pastor or Minister of any Episcopal Congregation or Assembly, before he take upon him to Officiate as Pastor of the said Congregation, be hereby Obligated and Required to present his Letters or Orders to the Justices of Peace, at their General or Quarter-Sessions, to be held for the Shire, Stewartry, City, Town, or other place in which the said Episcopal Congregation is or shall be; and that the said Letters or Orders be there Entered on Record by the Register or Clerk of the said Meeting of the Justices, for which there shall be no greater Fee or Reward taken than the Sum of One Shilling.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, and all and every person and persons, who is, or are Pastor, or Pastors, Minister or Ministers of any Episcopal Congregation in Scotland, shall be Obligated, and are hereby Required, on or before the First Day of August next to come, to Take and subscribe the following Oaths, in such Manner, and under such Penalties, as all Officers, Civil and Military, in Scotland, are obliged to take the Oath recited in the Fourteenth Act of the Sixth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, Intituled, *An Act for the better Security of Her Majesty's Person and Government*: And that all Ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, hereafter to be admitted into their respective Churches or Benefices, and all and every Person and Person, who shall hereafter be Pastor or Pastors, Minister or Ministers of any Episcopal Congregation, shall before such Admission or Exercise of their respective Functions, be Obligated to Take and Subscribe likewise the following Oaths, in the same Manner, and under the same Penalties abovementioned.

I A. B. do sincerely Promise and Swear, That I will be Faithful, and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen ANNE:

So help me God.

I A. B. do truly and sincerely Acknowledge, Profess, Testifie, and declare in my Conscience, before God and the World, That our Sovereign Lady Queen ANNE is Lawfull and Rightful Queen of this Realm, and of all other Her Majesty's Dominions and Countries therunto belonging. And I do solemnly and sincerely Declare, That I do believe in my Conscience, the Person pretended to be Prince of Wales, during the Life of the late King James, and since his Decease pretending to be, and taking upon himself the Stile and Title of King of England, by the Name of James the Third, or of Scotland, by the Name of James the Eighth, or the Stile and Title of King of Great Britain, hath not any Right or Title whatsoever to the Crown of this Realm, or any other the Dominions therunto belonging: And I do Renounce, Refuse, and Give up my Allegiance or Obedience to him. And I do Swear, That I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Anne, and Her will Defend to the Utmost of my Power, against all Traiterous Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against Her Person, Crown, or Dignity. And I will do my best End avow to Disclose and make Known to Her Majesty, and Her Successors, all Treasons and Traiterous Conspiracies which I shall know to be against Her, or any of Them. And I do faithfully Promise, to the Utmost of my Power, to Support, Maintain and Defend the Succession of the Crown against him the said James, and all other Persons whatsoever, as the same is and stands settled by an Act, Intituled, An Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and Settling the Succession of the Crown to Her present Majesty, and the Heirs of Her Body, being Protestants: And as the same [by One other Act, Intituled, An Act for the further Limitation of the Crown, and better Securing the Rights and Liberties of the Subject] is and stands settled and Entailed, after the Decease of Her Majesty and for Default of Issue of Her Majesty, to the Princess Sophia, Electress and Dutchess Dowager of Hanover, and the Heirs of Her Body, being Protestants. And all these things I do plainly and sincerely Acknowledge and Swear, according to these express Words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common Sense and Understanding of the said Acts, without any Equivocation, Mental Evasion, or Secret Reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recitation, Acknowledgement, Abjuration, Renunciation, and Promise, truly, willingly, and truly, upon the true Faith of a Christian:

So help me God.

Provided always, That the Assembly of Persons for Religious Worship in the Episcopal Meetings, be held with Doors not Locked, Barred, or Bolted, during such Assembly; and that nothing herein contained shall be Construed to Exempt any of the Persons Frequenting the said Episcopal Congregations from paying of Tythes or other Parochial Duties to the Church or Minister of the Parish to which they belong, and in which they reside.

And whereas since the Establishment of the Presbyterian Government in Scotland, some Laws have been made by the Parliament in Scotland against the Episcopal Clergy of that part of the United Kingdom, and particularly an Act passed in the Parliament held in the Year 1695. Intituled, *Act against Irregular Baptisms and Marriages*, by which all Episcopal Ministers, who were turned out of their Churches, are prohibited to Baptize any Children, or to Solemnize any Marriage upon pain of perpetual Imprisonment or Banishment: Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Act abovementioned be hereby Repealed and Annulled; and that in all time coming no Person or Persons shall in any Disability, Forfeiture, or Penalty whatsoever, upon account of his or their Resorting to the said Episcopal Meetings held for the Worship of God; and that it shall be Free and Lawfull for all the Subjects in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, to Assemble and Meet together for Divine Service, without any Disturbance, and

to Settle their Congregations in what Towns or Places they shall think fit to choose, except Parish-Churches, and for the Episcopal Ministry not only to Pray and Preach in the Episcopal Congregations, but to Administer the Sacraments, and Marry, without incurring any Pain or Penalty whatsoever; Any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, That the Parents who have their Children Christend by Episcopal Ministers, be hereby obliged to Enter the Birth and Christning of their Children in the Register-Books for Christnings belonging to the respective Parishes in which they live: And provided likewise, That no Episcopal Minister or Ministers, residing within that part of the United Kingdoms, called *Scotland*, presume to Marry any Persons, but those whose Bans have been duly published, Three several Lords Days in the Episcopal Congregations which the Two Parties frequent, and in the Churches to which they belong as Parishioners, by virtue of their Residence; and that upon the same Pains and Punishments as are already inflicted by the Laws of *Scotland* in Cases of clandestine Marriages; and the Ministers of the Parish-Churches are hereby obliged to publish the said Bans; and in case of Neglect or Refusal, it shall be sufficient to publish the said Bans in any Episcopal Congregation alone; Any Law, Statute, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, and it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That all the Laws made against Prophaneness and Immorality, and for frequenting of Divine Services on the Lord's Day commonly called *Sunday*, shall be still in Force, and Executed against all Persons that Offend against the said Laws, or shall not Resort either to some Church, or to some Congregation or Assembly of Religious Worship, allowed and permitted by this Act.

Provided likewise, That neither this Act, nor any Clause, Article or Thing herein contained, shall Extend, or be construed to Extend to give any Ease, Benefit or Advantage to any Papist or Popish Recusant whatsoever, or to any Person that shall Deny in his Preaching or Writing, the Doctrine of the Blessed Trinity.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, at any time after the 25th Day of March next to come, shall willingly, and of purpose, maliciously or contemptuously, come into any Congregation or Assembly of Religious Worship, permitted by this Act, and Disturb or Disturb the same, or give any Disturbance to the said Congregation, at the Doors or Windows, or Misuse any Minister or Pastor of such Congregation, such Person or Persons, upon Proof thereof before Two Justices of the Peace, by Two or more sufficient Witnesses, shall find two Sureties to be bound by Recognizance in the penal Sum of Fifty Pounds Sterling, for his or their Appearance at the next General or Quarter Sessions, or before the Court of Justiciary, or other Judge or Judges competent, and in Default of such Sureties shall be committed to Prison, and upon Conviction of the said Offence, at the said General or Quarter Sessions, or before the said Court of Justiciary, or other Judge or Judges competent, shall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds Sterling; one Moiety thereof to the Informer, the other to be disposed of for the Use of the Poor of the Parish where such Offence shall be committed; and if the Magistrates of any Town or Place, or others pretending to have Authority of Jurisdiction any where in *Scotland*, shall, in Contempt of this Law, Forbid or Hinder those of the Episcopal Perswasion from Meeting or Assembling together for Divine Worship, in the Places subject to their Jurisdiction, or shall shut up, or cause to be shut up the Doors of the Houses, or other Places where such Episcopal Assemblies are held, or intended to be held, such Magistrate and others so offending, upon Proof thereof before the Court of Justiciary, by two or more sufficient Witnesses, shall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds Sterling, to be distributed, as aforesaid.

And be it further Declared and Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Civil Pain or Forfeiture, or Disability whatsoever, shall be in any ways incurred by any person or persons, by Reason of any Excommunication or Prosecution in order to Excommunication by the Church Judicatories in that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*; and all Civil Magistrates are hereby expressly prohibited and discharged to Force or Compel any person or persons to appear when Summoned, or to give Obedience to any such Sentence when pronounced; any Law or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Minister and Preacher, as well of the Established Church in that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, as those of the Episcopal Communion, protected and allowed by this Act, shall at some time during the Exercise of the Divine Service in such respective Church, Congregation or

Assembly, Pray in express Words for Her most Sacred Majesty Queen *Anne*, and the most Excellent Princess *Sophia*, Electress and Dutchess Dowager of *Hanover*, while living, and all the Royal Family: And every such Minister or Preacher neglecting so to do, shall for the First Offence forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling, to be recovered and distributed in such manner as touching the other Penalties in this Act is herein before directed; and for the Second Offence every Minister of the Established Church in that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, being thereof convicted by the Oaths of two sufficient Witnesses before the Lords of Justiciary, shall be *ipso facto* Deprived, and Declared Incapable of any Church or Ecclesiastical Living, during the Space of three Years; and every Episcopal Minister allowed and protected by this Act, being thereof in like manner convicted, shall from thenceforth forfeit and lose the Benefit of this Act, and be declared Incapable of Officiating as Pastor of any Episcopal Congregation, during the Space of Three Years.

Provided always, That no Minister or Preacher Offending herein, shall suffer such Penalties, or either of them, unless he be prosecuted for the same within the Space of two Months after the Offence is committed.

Berlin, March 19. N. S. Several Colonies of Palatines and Swisses have been sent into Prussia, where they are to be settled, that Country having been much depopulated by the Plague. The Inhabitants of the Swedish Pomerania and Mecklenburg likewise leave their Habitations and retire into Prussia in great Numbers. Monsieur Craffau, Chamberlain to the Duke of Mecklenburg, arrived here lately, to solicit this Court to interpose their good Offices with the Allies of the North, that so they may not continue their Exactions which they make in his Master's Country. The Hereditary Prince of Hesse Cassel arrived here yesterday, and General Fleming is expected, in a few Days, from Dresden. His Prussian Majesty has thought fit to suppress the Royal Academy which he had Founded here, for the Use of Young Princes and other Persons of Quality, and to dismiss all those who had any Employment in it. There has been a Report here, which still continues, That his Majesty designs to assemble the Troops which are now remaining in this Country, and to form a Camp near Zehdenick on the Frontiers of Mecklenburg and Pomerania.

Whereas the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have Ordered the Captain of Her Majesty's Ship the Adventure, to be Try'd at a Court Martial at Spithead, where the Deputy Judge-Advocate of the Navy now is, in order to the holding the said Court; their Lordships do hereby give notice thereof, that so the Persons who have made Complaint against the said Captain, and particularly the Chaplain, may forthwith repair to Spithead to make good their Allegations.

The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, are hereby pleas'd to direct, That all such Men, late belonging to Her Majesty's Ship the Suffolk, as were turn'd over to the Cambridge, in order to serve on Board the Woolwich, and are now in and about Town, do immediately repair on Board the said Ship Cambridge at the Nore, otherwise they'll be taken up and Punished as Deserters.

The Committee for Letting the Cities Lands in the Account of the Chamberlain of the City of London, give Notice, That they intend to let by Lease, the Tenements in Houndsditch, known by the Sign of the Three Bells and Horseshoe; the Porter and Dwarf, a Tenement adjoining in Possession of Daniel Mountague; the Tenement known by the Sign of St. Luke, and a small Tenement behind the same: The Tenements in Chiswellstret, in the several Possessions of John Ragg, John King, William Picket, Elizabeth Hadey, Mary Gardner and William Biss, and five Tenements in Panton's Rents, and one in little Sword Bearers Alley behind the same: And that the said Committee will sit in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, London, on Wednesday the 26th Instant, at Three Afternoon, to receive Proposals for the Premises severally; of which more Particular Information may be had at the Comptrollers Office in the Guildhall aforesaid.