



ANNO DECIMO NONO & VICESIMO

# VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Cap. cxxxiii.*

An Act for extending the Operations of the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons imprisoned for small Debts throughout *England* and *Wales*. [29th July 1856.]

**W**HEREAS the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons imprisoned for small Debts throughout *England* and *Wales*, which was founded in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventy-two, is a voluntary charitable Society, established for the Purpose of procuring the Discharge from Prison of and relieving Persons imprisoned in *England* and *Wales* for small Debts, and is under the Management of Governors elected from Donors to the Society of Twenty Guineas or upwards, and Subscribers to the Society of Two Guineas a Year or upwards: And whereas the following are Two of the Rules of the Society; to wit, "No Relief will be granted by Composition upon more than One Debt, which Debt must not exceed Ninety Pounds, and no more than One Third of such Debt respectively as to the Amount will be granted as a Composition in discharge of the same;" and "No Relief will be granted under the Insolvent Act upon any Amount of Debts exceeding Four hundred Pounds, no single Debt of which must exceed Ninety Pounds, nor must the Balance between Debts and Credits exceed Two hundred Pounds:" And whereas the Property of the Society, derived from Donations, Subscriptions, Public Collections,  
[Local.] 23 C and

*Imprisoned Debtors Discharge Society's Act, 1856.*

and other Benefactions, and the Accumulations of surplus Income, consists of the following Particulars ; that is to say,

1. Houses.—A Leasehold House occupied by the Society, and being No. 7, *Craven Street, Strand*, held for the Residue of a Term of Thirty Years from the Tenth Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, at the annual Rent of Fifty-one Pounds, and Insurance Two Pounds ; a Leasehold House, No. 28 in *Queen's Row, Walworth*, held for the Residue of a Term of Seventy-seven Years from *Lady Day* One thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, at the annual Rent of Five Pounds Five Shillings, and now let at Twenty-four Pounds *per Annum* :
2. Stock in the Public Funds.—The Sum of Forty thousand Pounds Stock, Three *per Cent.* Consols, invested in the Names of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Romney*, *Benjamin Bond Cabbell* Esquire, M.P., *Capel Cure* Esquire, and *Henry Harwood Harwood* Esquire, the Trustees of the Society ; the Sum of Forty thousand Pounds Stock, New Three *per Cents.*, also invested in the Names of the said Trustees ; the Sum of Eleven thousand eight hundred and twenty-five Pounds Nine Shillings and Fivepence Stock, Reduced Three *per Cents.*, also invested in the Names of the said Trustees ; the Sum of Fifteen thousand one hundred and thirty-nine Pounds Twelve Shillings and Ninepence Stock, New Three *per Cents.*, invested in the Name of Accountant General of the Court of Chancery in trust for the Society :
3. Annuities.—Thirty Pounds a Year given by Sir *Francis Burdett* Baronet, deceased ; Two hundred Pounds a Year bequeathed by Mrs. *Alethea Maria Stafford* deceased ; Fifty Pounds a Year bequeathed by the Earl of *Kerry* deceased ; Fifty Pounds a Year bequeathed by *Charles Augustus Frederick Pieschel* deceased :

And 4. The following outstanding Legacies :

Date when Will proved.	Names of Testator.	Amount of Legacies.
1778	The Reverend William Scott -	Residue.
1804	James Wrigglesworth - -	Residue.
1817	Mary White - - - -	£2 per Annum.
1823	James Alexander - - -	£200.
1824	Sir William Paxton - - -	£100.
1826	Thomas Green - - - -	£1,000 at Decease of Testator's Wife and Sister.
1834	Griffith J. Bickerton - - -	£100.
1837	Elizabeth Piercy - - - -	£19. 19s.
1838	Andrew Douglas White - - -	£100 Consols.
1843	Thomas Fewson Eagles - - -	One Seventh of Residue.

And

*Imprisoned Debtors Discharge Society's Act, 1856.*

And whereas by reason of the Abolition of Imprisonment on Mesne Process for small Debts, and of other Ameliorations of the Law, the Applicants for Assistance from the Society are so greatly reduced in Number that the Income of the Society has for some Time exceeded its Expenditure, and there is Reason to apprehend that unless the Operations of the Society be extended, its Property may be continually increased by Accumulations: And whereas the Society's Property being derived from Benefactions from Persons residing in various Parts of *England* and *Wales*, and the Persons for whose Benefit the Society was founded being Prisoners confined for Debt in any of the Prisons in *England* and *Wales*, the Society is desirous and it is expedient that it be enabled to apply its surplus Funds for other charitable Purposes, the Objects of which shall be resident in any Part of *England* or *Wales*; but for that Purpose the Aid of Parliament is requisite: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

I. This Act may be cited for any Purpose as "Imprisoned Debtors Discharge Society's Act, 1856." Short Title.

II. The Society from Time to Time, with the Sanction of at least Four Fifths of the Votes of the Governors of the Society present at a General Meeting of the Governors of the Society specially called for the Purpose, and with the Approval of the High Court of Chancery to be obtained on an Application by the Society in a summary Way, either to the Court or to any Judge thereof in Chambers, may apply all or any Part of the surplus annual Income in any One Year of the Society by way of Donation in or towards establishing or assisting from Time to Time such other present or future charitable Institutions in *England* or *Wales* as the Society think fit. Power to Society to apply its Surplus Income for other charitable Institutions.

III. Provided always, That the surplus Income which the Society may from Time to Time so apply shall only be such Part of the Income of the Society as the Yearly General Meeting of the Society shall from Time to Time, with reference to the Accounts of the Society made up to the then last Thirty-first Day of *December*, declare to be in their Judgment such Part of the Income for the Year ending with that Day as was not required in that Year for the Discharge or Relief of Persons imprisoned for small Debts, or for the Discharge of any of the Liabilities of the Society, and the Amount so from Time to Time declared to be surplus Income shall accordingly be carried to a distinct Account, and be thenceforth applicable under this Act. Limit of such Application.

IV. Pro-

---

*Imprisoned Debtors Discharge Society's Act, 1856.*

---

Limit of  
Amount of  
Debt not to be  
diminished.

IV. Provided always, That the Limit as to the Amount of Debt or Debts mentioned in the said Two herein-before recited Rules of the Society, or either of them, shall not be diminished.

Saving  
Rights of the  
Society.

V. Provided always, That except as is by this Act expressly enacted, this Act or anything therein shall not take away, lessen, alter, or affect any of the Rights, Interests, Powers, or Privileges of the Society or of its Governors or Officers, or any of them.

Expenses of  
Act.

VI. The Costs, Charges, and Expenses of and incident to the applying for, obtaining, and passing of this Act shall be paid by the Society out of such Part of its Property as it thinks fit.

---

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1856.