



ANNO DECIMO SEPTIMO & DECIMO OCTAVO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. ccxiii.

An Act for relieving the *Ratcliff* Gaslight and Coke Company, and their Servants and Agents, from certain Penalties and Penal Actions.

[31st July 1854.]

WHEREAS the *Ratcliff* Gaslight and Coke Company were incorporated by an Act of Parliament made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for lighting with Gas the several Parishes of Saint Botolph Aldgate and Saint Paul Shadwell, and certain Parts of the Parishes of Saint George in the East otherwise Saint George Middlesex and Saint John of Wapping and of the Hamlets of Mile End Old Town and Ratcliff, in the County of Middlesex*, and were empowered by the said Act to supply and light with Gas the Shops, Inns, Taverns, private Houses, public Establishments, Manufactories, Churches, Chapels, and the Passages leading thereto, as well as the Streets, Squares, Roads, Bridges, Passages, Markets, and all other public and private Parts and Places situate and being within such Parts of the said several Parishes of *Saint Botolph Aldgate*, and *Saint Paul Shadwell*, and of *Saint George in the East* otherwise *Saint George Middlesex*, and *Saint John of Wapping*, and of the Hamlets of *Mile End Old Town* and *Ratcliff*, in the said County of *Middlesex*, as lay within a Line commencing at *Irongate Stairs* on the River *Thames*

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Ratcliff Gas Company Relief.

near the *Tower of London*, and continued in a straight Line from thence to *Manor Row, Little Tower Hill*; from thence in a North-westerly Direction to *Union Row, Rosemary Lane, to Church Lane, Cable Street*, in the Parish of *Saint George in the East*; from thence in a North-westerly Direction to the *Commercial Road* at the Corner of *Church Lane* aforesaid; from thence along the Exterior of the North Side of the *Commercial Road* to *White Horse Street, Stepney*, in the Hamlet of *Ratcliff*, and through the Centre of *White Horse Street, Butcher Row, and Ratcliff Cross*, to the River *Thames* at *Ratcliff Cross Stairs*, in the County of *Middesex*; and from thence along the Northern Bank of the said River to *Irongate Stairs* aforesaid; and which said Parts of the Parishes and Hamlets aforesaid as were within such Line as aforesaid were declared to be the Limits of the said Act, and of all the Powers, Authorities, and Privileges thereby conferred and allowed to the said Company; but by the said Act the said Company were prohibited from lighting any Parts or Places or supplying with Gas any Persons in any Parts or Places without the Limits of the said Act, and being on the Outside of the Line aforesaid, under Penalties of Five Shillings for every Cubic Foot of Gas so supplied, and Twenty Shillings for every Lamp so lighted, for every Hour in which the same shall be so lighted, which were imposed by the said Act on the said Company, or any of their Servants, Agents, or Workmen, or any other Persons employed by or acting for them, who should offend therein: And whereas several Actions and Informations have been commenced and brought against the said *Ratcliff Gaslight and Coke Company* for Penalties to an enormous Amount alleged to have been incurred by them under the said Act of Parliament by lighting and supplying with Gas the *Thames Tunnel* and the Buildings and Premises belonging thereto or connected therewith, which said Tunnel, Buildings, and Premises are partly within and partly without the Limits of the said Act of Parliament, and are required to be kept well and sufficiently lighted up for the Public to pass through the same by another Act of Parliament made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George the Fourth*, for constructing the said Tunnel and Appurtenances: And whereas it is expedient to afford Relief to the said *Ratcliff Gaslight and Coke Company* from the said Actions and Informations, and from the Penalties which may have been incurred by lighting or supplying with Gas the said *Thames Tunnel* and the Buildings connected therewith, and to make such other Provision as herein-after mentioned: 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 Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same,

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I. That after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the said Company or their Successors, or any of their Servants, Agents, or Workmen,

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Workmen, or any Person who may have been employed by or acting for them, who shall be Defendant or Defendants in any Action, Suit, or Information commenced or brought on or before the Day of the passing of this Act for the Recovery of any pecuniary Penalties incurred under the Act of Parliament first above mentioned, by lighting or causing to be lighted with Gas the said *Thames Tunnel* or any of the Buildings, Lands, or Premises belonging thereto or connected therewith, or any Part thereof, or by supplying with Gas any Person or Persons in the said *Thames Tunnel*, Buildings, Lands, or Premises, or any Part thereof, to apply to the Court in which such Action, Suit, or Information shall have been brought, or if such Court shall not be sitting, or if the Information shall be pending before any Magistrate, to any Judge of either of the Superior Courts of Law at *Westminster*, for an Order that such Action, Suit, or Information shall be discontinued upon Payment of the Costs incurred to the Time of such Application being made, such Costs to be taxed according to the Practice of such Court; and every such Court or Judge is hereby authorized and required, upon such Application, and Proof that sufficient Notice has been given to the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, Informer or Informers, or to his or their Attorney, of the Application to make such Order as aforesaid; and upon the making of such Order, and Payment or Tender of such Costs as aforesaid, every such Action, Suit, or Information shall be forthwith discontinued.

Order to stay Proceedings for Penalties commenced previously to the passing of this Act.

II. Provided always, That if in any Case any such Action, Suit, or Information as aforesaid for the Recovery of any such pecuniary Penalties as aforesaid, incurred in manner aforesaid before the passing of this Act, shall be commenced or laid at any Time subsequent to the Day of the passing of this Act, such Court or Judge as aforesaid shall and may make such Order as aforesaid for discontinuing the same without Payment of any Costs, and upon making such Order such Suit, Action, or Information shall be forthwith discontinued.

Proceedings commenced after the passing of the Act to be discontinued, without Payment of Costs.

III. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to any Action, Suit, or Information in which any final Judgment or Conviction shall have passed on or before the Day of passing this Act, and on which Judgment or Conviction no Proceedings in or towards Error or by way of Appeal shall have been taken, and be undetermined or pending on the Day of the passing of this Act.

Act not to extend to Actions, &c., in which final Judgment has been obtained.

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