



ANNO DECIMO OCTAVO & DECIMO NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. cxcii.

An Act for extending the Times granted to the *Westminster* Improvement Commissioners by “The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845,” “The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847,” “The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850,” and “The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853,” for the compulsory Purchase of Lands and the Completion of Works; and for altering the Corporate Name of “The *Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes” to “The *London and Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes;” and for other Purposes.

[14th *August* 1855.]

WHEREAS the *Westminster* Improvement Commissioners were incorporated and continued as an Incorporation by the Local and Personal Acts Eighth and Ninth of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and seventy-eight, which Act has the Short
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Title "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," Tenth and Eleventh of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and thirty-one, which Act has the Short Title "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," Thirteenth and Fourteenth of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and two, which Act has the Short Title "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," and Sixteenth and Seventeenth *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and seventy-six, which Act has the Short Title "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," for the Purposes of an Undertaking, the Objects of which were the Construction of a Street (now completed and opened to the Public, and called *Victoria Street*,) to form a Communication between the Neighbourhood of the Houses of Parliament and *Buckingham Palace*, and of a secondary Street, to form a Communication between *Dean Street* and the *Horseferry Road*, or otherwise, and of the Streets and Works prescribed or authorized by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," aforesaid, and the Improvement of the District in the Neighbourhood of the same Streets respectively, which Undertaking is prescribed or authorized, and the Powers and Privileges of the said Commissioners in relation thereto created, continued, extended, or modified, and Funds in aid of the Undertaking provided, by the said "*Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," the said "*Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," the Public General Acts Tenth and Eleventh of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and fifteen, Eleventh and Twelfth of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and twenty-four, and Thirteenth and Fourteenth of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and three, which last-mentioned Three Acts are Acts relating principally to the *London Bridge Approaches* Fund, and by the said "*Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," and the said "*Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853:" And whereas by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," aforesaid, after reciting, among other things, that the Improvements in the City of *Westminster*, prescribed or authorized by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," and "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," had been in part carried into effect, (that is to say,) the *Westminster* Improvement Commissioners had, in such Manner as was required of them, constructed between the *Broad Sanctuary*, *Westminster*, and *Shaftesbury Terrace*, and opened to the Public, the Street called *Victoria Street*, but although the Plans for the secondary Street mentioned in "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," and "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," had been submitted, as in the same Acts respectively was required, unto Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works, and Buildings, and unto the Churchwardens and Vestries of the united Parishes of *St. Margaret* and *St. John the Evangelist*, and had been approved of by the said Churchwardens and Vestries, the Certificate of Approval under the Hands of Two of Her Majesty's Commissioners, required by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," had

not

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not been given; and the Security by the said "*Westminster Improvement Act, 1847*," directed to be by the Commissioners given or provided for the Construction of the said secondary Street according to the Plans thereof, to be approved of as aforesaid, had not then been given or provided by the Commissioners; and the Formation of the said secondary Street could not be completed until the Commissioners had obtained Possession of the Workhouse, and had purchased other Land required for the said secondary Street, and noticing that the Duties and Powers which, under the therein-before recited Acts, if the Act therein-after mentioned had not been passed, would have been performed and executed by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works, and Buildings, were, under and by virtue of "*The Public General Act*," Fourteenth and Fifteenth *Victoria*, Chapter Forty-two, performed and exercised by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, it was by the Act now in recital, Section Thirteen, enacted, that the Powers of the Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase or taking of the Land authorized to be taken by that Act should not be exercised after the Expiration of Two Years from the passing of that Act; and it was by the same Act, Section Fifty-six, enacted, that, subject to such Security being given as therein-after provided, and save and except as to the Lands of the Governors of the *Grey Coat Hospital*, mentioned in the Schedule to "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1847*," the Period by "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1845*," granted for the compulsory Purchase and taking of Land comprised in the Schedule (C.) to the same Act, (which Period was extended by "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1850*,") and the Period by "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1847*," granted for the compulsory Purchase and taking of Land comprised in the Schedule (B.) to the same Act, should be and the same Periods were thereby respectively extended and enlarged until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and that the Powers of the said Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase or taking of such Land as aforesaid should continue in force and might be exercised until such last-mentioned Day and not afterwards, but subject in every Case to the Provisions of the said Improvement Acts and that Act; and it was by the same Act, Section Fifty-seven, enacted, that, subject to such Security being given as therein-after mentioned, the Period by "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1847*," limited for the Completion of the herein-before mentioned secondary Street should be and the same thereby was revived and extended until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and that the Security to be, pursuant to the same Act, or "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1850*," given for the Completion of the said secondary Street should be accordingly a Security for the Completion thereof by the said Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-

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fifty-five; and it was by the same Act, Section Fifty-eight, enacted, that the Security to the Extent of Five thousand Pounds to be by the Commissioners provided for the Completion of the said secondary Street should be a Security to be approved of, not only by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, but also by the Churchwardens and Vestries of the united Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, and that such Security should be given within Six Months after the passing of that Act, and in default thereof the Powers of the said Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase or taking of Land comprised in the Schedule (B.) to "The *Westminster Improvement Act, 1847*," and in the Schedule (A.) to that Act, should cease and determine: And whereas a Plan for the said secondary Street, (which Plan agrees in all respects with the Plan in the said "*Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," mentioned to have been approved of by the Churchwardens and Vestries of the united Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, except that the Space between *Victoria Street* and the said secondary Street is increased by about Twelve Feet in Width,) was, prior to the Security for the Completion of the said secondary Street being given, as hereinafter mentioned, approved of by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, and by the Churchwardens and Vestries of the united Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*: And whereas the Commissioners, within the Period prescribed by the said "*Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," provided, to the Satisfaction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, Security to the Extent of Five thousand Pounds for the Completion of the said secondary Street, such Security being provided by a Bond, dated the Third Day of *February* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, under the Seal of the said *Westminster Improvement Commissioners*, in the penal Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, and by a Deposit of the Sum of Five thousand Pounds, in the Names of the Obligees and of another Trustee, at the *London* and County Bank, upon Trusts for securing the Performance of the Condition of the said Bond; but the said Churchwardens and Vestries contend that the Security given as aforesaid was not a Security according to the Intent and Meaning of "*The Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," aforesaid: And whereas the Funds by the said Improvement Acts, some or One of them, provided for the Construction of the said secondary Street, consist in part of Sums charged upon or payable out of the Rates of the said united Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*, and under the Circumstances the Commissioners have not been able to proceed in the Construction of the said secondary Street; and it is expedient that the Question as to the Security given by the Commissioners as aforesaid should be determined: And whereas it is expedient that the Periods limited to the said Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase and taking of Lands,

and

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and for Completion of the said secondary Street, should be extended: And whereas "The *Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes" was incorporated by "The *Westminster* Improvement Association Act, 1853," for providing, by the Alteration of existing Buildings or the Erection of new Buildings, commodious and healthy Lodgings and Dwellings for the poorer Classes, and for letting out the same to them as temporary Lodgings, or otherwise, in such Manner and under such Restrictions as should be found most conducive to the Objects of the Association; but the Operations of the Association are not confined to *Westminster*, and the Association is desirous that the Corporate Name should be "The *London* and *Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes:" And whereas the Purposes aforesaid cannot be effected without the Authority of Parliament: 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; (that is to say,)

I. That in citing this Act in other Acts of Parliament, and in legal Instruments, it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1855." Short Title.

II. That in this Act the following Expressions shall have the several Meanings hereby assigned to them, unless there be something in the Subject or Context repugnant to such Construction; (that is to say,) Interpretation of Terms.

The Word "Land" shall extend to Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments of any Tenure:

The Expression "the Commissioners" shall mean the Commissioners for the Time being acting by virtue of "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," and this Act:

The Expression "the Improvement Acts" shall mean "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," and "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853:"

The Word "Sheriff," in "The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," shall, with respect to this Act and the said Improvement Acts, mean the High Bailiff of *Westminster*, in all Cases where the High Bailiff discharges the Duties and Offices usually discharged by the Sheriff.

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Security given by the Commissioners declared to be according to the Intent and Meaning of 16 & 17 Vict. c. clxxvi.

III. That the Security to the Extent of Five thousand Pounds, so as aforesaid provided by the Commissioners for the Completion of the said secondary Street, was and shall be taken to be a Security according to the Intent and Meaning of "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," and shall accordingly operate, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, in the same Way as if such Security had been approved of by the said Churchwardens and Vestries of the united Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist*.

Extension of Time for compulsory Purchases in Schedule (C.) to 8 & 9 Vict. c. clxxviii. and in Schedule (B.) to 10 & 11 Vict. c. cxxxii.

IV. The Period by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1845," granted for the compulsory Purchase and taking of the Land comprised in the Schedule (C.) to the same Act, (which Period was extended by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1850," and "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853,") and the Period by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," granted for the compulsory Purchase and taking of the Land comprised in the Schedule (B.) to the same Act, (which Period was extended by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853,") be and the same Periods respectively hereby are extended and enlarged until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and that the Powers of the Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase and taking of such Land as aforesaid shall continue in force and may be exercised until such last-mentioned Period, but subject in every Case to the Provisions of the said Improvement Acts.

Extension of Time for the Completion of the secondary Street.

V. That the Period by "The *Westminster* Improvement Act, 1847," limited for the Completion of the said secondary Street, (which Period was revived and extended by the said "*Westminster* Improvement Act, 1853," shall be extended and enlarged until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven; and that the Condition of the Bond given by the Commissioners for the Completion of the said secondary Street shall be deemed to be performed if the same Street be made and completed, in manner in the Condition of the same Bond mentioned, on or before the said Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven; and, subject to such Extension of Time, the said Bond shall remain in force, and may be enforced as fully and effectually as if the said Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven had been the Time in the Condition of the Bond named for the Completion of the said secondary Street; and the said deposited Sum of Five thousand Pounds shall remain and be a Security for the Performance of the Condition of the same Bond.

Extension of Time for the compul-

VI. That, except as to certain Houses in *Palace Street*, numbered 23 to 31, both inclusive, in the said Schedule also mentioned, the
Period

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Period limited to the Commissioners by "The *Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," for the compulsory Purchase and taking of the Land comprised in the Schedule (A.) to the same Act, shall be and the same hereby is extended and enlarged until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and that the Powers of the Commissioners for the compulsory Purchase and taking of such Land shall continue in force and may be exercised until the last-mentioned Day, but subject in every Case to the Provisions of the said Improvement Acts.

sory Purchases in Schedule (A.) to 16 & 17 Vict. c. clxxvi.

VII. That the Period limited by "The *Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," Section Thirty-two, for Her Majesty's Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings giving their Consent to the Commissioners taking Parts of *Parliament Square Gardens* for the intended Continuation of *Victoria Street*, shall be and the same hereby is extended and enlarged until the Thirty-first Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven; and the Powers of the Commissioners for taking Parts of *Parliament Square Gardens*, with such Consent as aforesaid, and also Part of the Churchyard or Burial Ground of the Parish of *Saint Margaret*, shall continue in force and may be exercised until the last-mentioned Day, but subject in every respect to the Provisions of the said Improvement Acts.

Extension of Time for taking Parts of Parliament Square Gardens and the Churchyard of St. Margaret.

VIII. Provided always, That this Act or anything herein contained shall not affect or prejudice the Security given by the Commissioners, by an Indenture of Mortgage dated the Twenty-fifth Day of *June* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and Bond of even Date therein referred to, for the Repayment by the Commissioners, with Interest, as therein mentioned, of a Sum of Thirty thousand Pounds advanced to them by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works, and Buildings, pursuant to a Power contained in the Act of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth of *Victoria*, Chapter One hundred and three, and which, under or by virtue of "The Metropolitan Improvements (Repayment out of Consolidated Fund) Act, 1853," is now vested in the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings: Provided also, that this Act or anything herein contained shall not prejudice or affect any Right of Preference or Priority in Payment which any Person holding a Bond of the Commissioners, granted before the Date of the Indenture of Mortgage and Deed of Settlement, dated respectively the Twenty-sixth Day of *May* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, and not having assented thereto, would have been entitled to if the said Indenture of Mortgage and Deed of Settlement had not been executed, or the said *Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*, confirming the same, or this Act, had not been passed.

Act not to affect Security for 30,000*l.* vested in the Commissioners of Works, &c.

IX. That

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Houses in Palace Street, 23 to 31, released from Powers of 16 & 17 Vict. c. clxxvi.

Act not to affect Articles of Agreement with Justices of Middlesex.

Saving Rights of Governors of Grey Coat and Saint Margaret's Hospitals and the Trustees of the Rev. J. Palmer's Charity.

Commissioners not to take any Lands until certain Payments are made.

Security to be given for the Payment of Rates.

IX. That the said Houses in *Palace Street* numbered 23 to 31, both inclusive, are hereby released from the Powers and Provisions of "The *Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," and shall be considered as expunged from the Schedule (A.) to the said Act, and from the Plan therein referred to.

X. That nothing herein contained shall in any Manner whatsoever prejudice or affect certain Articles of Agreement, dated the Third Day of *June* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, with the Justices of *Middlesex*, in "The *Westminster Improvement Act, 1853*," mentioned or referred to by the said last-mentioned Act ratified and confirmed.

XI. That neither the Extension or Enlargement herein-before granted of the Periods for the compulsory Purchase and taking of Lands, nor any other Clause, Matter, or Thing herein contained, shall in any Manner take away, alter, abridge, or interfere with the Interests, Rights, Authorities, and Powers of the Governors of the *Grey Coat Hospital*, the Governors of the Hospital of *Saint Margaret*, the Poor of *Emanuel Hospital*, and the Trustees of the Reverend *James Palmer's* Charity respectively, given to or vested in or exerciseable by them respectively, by or under the said Improvement Acts or any of them, or which they may have acquired, or which may be vested in or exerciseable by them, under or by virtue of any Contract, Agreement, or Arrangement heretofore entered into by them the said Governors, or the said Trustees, or their Treasurer, or any other Person on their Behalf, with the said Commissioners, or with the Chairman of the said Commissioners, or any other Person on their Behalf, or which has been adopted by the said Commissioners.

XII. That before the Commissioners shall take any Land under the extended Powers for compulsory Purchase given by this Act they shall pay to the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the Parishes of *St. Margaret* and *St. John the Evangelist* all Arrears in the Deficiency of Rates payable by the Commissioners, if any shall be then due, together with the Costs of any Suit or Proceedings for recovering the same, and the Sum of One hundred and fifty Pounds on account of Costs incurred by the said Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen, relating to this Act.

XIII. That for the Purpose of further securing to the Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, and Vestrymen of the Parishes of *Saint Margaret* and *Saint John the Evangelist* the Payment of the Deficiencies in Rates which may hereafter become due from the Commissioners to the said Churchwardens, Overseers, and Vestrymen under the Provisions of the Improvement Acts, some or One of them, in

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in respect of any Land hereafter to be taken under the said Improvement Acts or this Act, the Commissioners shall, previously to taking any such Land under the hereby extended Powers for compulsory Purchase, give or provide, to the Satisfaction of One of the Masters of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench at *Westminster*, Security to the Extent of Three thousand Pounds, for the Payment from Time to Time as they may become due of all such Deficiencies; and the Persons to whom such Security shall be given, the Survivors and Survivor of them, and the Executors and Administrators of such Survivor, shall and they and he are and is hereby required to enforce the Payment of the said Sum of Three thousand Pounds, or a sufficient Part thereof, from Time to Time, in any Court of Law or Equity, under the Direction of such Churchwardens, Overseers, and Vestrymen, in case such Deficiencies shall not be from Time to Time fully paid; provided, that if it shall at any Time be shown to the Satisfaction of One of the Masters of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench at *Westminster* that the Houses and other Buildings erected and standing on the Land taken by the Commissioners are of sufficient rateable Value, and become occupied and thereby rateable, and sufficient to provide for all Deficiencies in the said Rates payable by the said Commissioners, no such Security shall be required, and if any Security shall have been previously given the same shall be released and given up to the Commissioners.

XIV. That with respect to any Land of which no Part shall lie within Eighty Feet of the said intended secondary Street, and being on the South thereof, and not required for any other Improvement authorized by the said Improvement Acts, in case any Owner or Lessee thereof shall give Notice to the Commissioners, requiring them forthwith to purchase or release the same from the Powers and Provisions of the said Improvement Acts and this Act, then, unless the said Commissioners shall, within Six Months after receiving such Notice, enter into a valid Contract with such Owner or Lessee for the Purchase of his Interest in the said Land, or give to such Owner or Lessee a valid and binding Notice to treat and agree for his Interest in the said Land, the said Land, so far as respects the Interest of such Owner or Lessee, shall from and after the Expiration of the said Period of Six Months be released from the Powers and Provisions of the said Improvement Acts and this Act.

Commissioners to purchase certain Lands in Notice, or Power to do so to cease.

XV. And whereas the Improvements which have of late been made and are still making in the City of *Westminster* have caused the Removal of many Houses inhabited by the Labouring Classes: And whereas certain Persons connected with such Improvements and others were desirous of providing improved Dwellings for such Labouring Classes, and accordingly applied for and obtained "The *Westminster*

[*Local.*]

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Improvement

Change of the Corporate Name of the Westminster Association for improving the Dwellings of the working Classes.

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Improvement Association Act, 1853:" And whereas it is desirable that the Name of the Association incorporated by that Act should be changed: Be it therefore enacted, That the Association heretofore called "The *Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes," shall from the Date of the passing of this Act be called "The *London and Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes:" Provided always, that the Association shall under the Name last aforesaid continue subject in all respects to the same Liabilities, and shall possess the same Privileges and Rights, and be governed by the same Rules and Regulations as those to which it would have been subject and would have possessed and would have been governed by in case this Act had not been passed; and all Contracts and Engagements entered into and subsisting between the Association and any Bodies Politic and Corporate, and any other Person or Persons whatsoever, prior to the passing of this Act, shall and may be proceeded with and enforced in the same Manner to all Intents and Purposes as if at the Time of making such Contracts and Engagements the Association had been called "The *London and Westminster* Association for improving the Dwellings of the Working Classes," and the Provisions of "The *Westminster* Improvement Association Act, 1853," shall be applicable to the Association in the same Manner as if the Association had been thereby incorporated under the Name last aforesaid.

Expenses of
Act.

XVI. That the Costs and Expenses of and attending the applying for, obtaining, and passing this Act shall be borne by the *Westminster* Improvement Commissioners; and that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, out of any Monies coming to their Hands by virtue of the said Improvement Acts, or any of them, to pay the Costs and Expenses aforesaid.

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