



ANNO PRIMO & SECUNDO.

GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

Cap. v.

An Act for better raising and securing the Fund established for making Provision for the Widows of the Writers to His Majesty's Signet in *Scotland*.
[30th *July* 1831.]

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the Forty-third Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Third, intituled *An Act for raising and securing a Fund for making Provision for the Widows of the Writers to His Majesty's Signet in Scotland*: And whereas another Act was passed in the Fifty-eighth Year of His said Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to alter and amend an Act passed in the Forty-third Year of His Majesty's Reign, for raising a Fund for making Provision for the Widows of the Writers to His Majesty's Signet in Scotland*: And whereas Experience has suggested several Improvements in the Scheme, in reference both to the Principles and to the Mode of Management expedient to be adopted for protecting the Fund, and for securing adequate Annuities to the Widows; but these Improvements cannot be carried into effect without the Aid and Authority of Parliament: 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 from and after the passing of this Act the Two foresaid Acts of the Forty-third and Forty-eighth Years of His Majesty King *George* the Third shall be and they are hereby repealed; saving always and excepting so much and such Part or Parts of the said Two Acts respectively as regard

43G.3.c.107.
58 G.3.c.74.

Recited Acts repealed, with certain Exceptions.

[*Local.*] K k the

the Arrears of Annual Contributions or Rates, of Marriage and Equalizing Rates or Taxes, and of Half Rates or Age Tax, with Interest arising thereon, and Penalties imposed by the said Acts, which shall have become due and payable, and such Annual Contributions or Rates, Marriage and Equalizing Rates or Taxes, and Half Rates or Age Tax, as have been incurred, though not falling to be paid till the Term of *Martinmas* next, with Interest and Penalties as imposed by the said Acts, by present or by deceased Contributors, before or at the Date of the passing of this Act, and Interest thereafter arising on said Annual Rates, Marriage and Equalizing Taxes, and Age Tax, all which, or so much thereof as are in arrear, shall be recoverable by the same Ways and Means, and with such and the same Penalties, and in such and the same Manner in all respects as if the foresaid Two Acts had not been hereby in part repealed; and also saving and excepting so much and such Part or Parts of the said Two Acts respectively as regard the Consequences arising to the Widows of Contributors from Nonpayment of the said Annual Contributions or Rates, or other Rates or Taxes.

Contributors
to the Fund,
and Annual
Contribu-
tions to be
paid by them.

II. And be it enacted, That all and each of the Members of the Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet who are or at the passing of this Act shall be Contributors to the Fund for making Provision for the Widows of the Contributors under the Authority of the Two foresaid Acts, and who may be living at the Term of *Whitsunday* that is on the Fifteenth Day of *May* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, shall be bound to make Payment to *Walter Cook*, Writer to the Signet, Collector of the said Fund, appointed under and by virtue of the said Two Acts, and to his Successors in Office, to be appointed in manner herein-after provided, for Behoof of the foresaid Fund, at the said Term of *Whitsunday* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, of the Sum of Six Pounds and Six Shillings Sterling, and of the like Sum of Six Pounds and Six Shillings at every succeeding Term of *Whitsunday* during their respective Lives, and of the Interest of each respective Annual Contribution from the Time of Payment thereof till paid, with One Twentieth Part more of such Annual Contribution in Name of Penalty in case of failing to make Payment thereof within Three Months after the same becomes due, besides the full Costs, if any, that may be incurred in prosecuting for and recovering the same.

All future
Members of
the Society
to be Con-
tributors.

III. And be it enacted, That every Person who after the passing of this Act shall be admitted a Member of the said Society in consequence of an Indenture of Apprenticeship which commenced after the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and three, shall in consequence of his Admission be held to be a Contributor to the said Widows Fund, excepting as herein-after excepted; and every such Person who shall be so admitted after the Term of *Martinmas* in any Year, and before the Term of *Whitsunday* in the next subsequent Year, shall be bound to make Payment to the said Collector, or to the Collector for the Time being, for Behoof of the said Fund, of the Sum of Six Pounds and Six Shillings at the first Term of *Whitsunday* after his Admission, and of the like Sum at every succeeding *Whitsunday* during his Life; and every Person who shall be admitted after the Term of *Whitsunday* and before the Term of

Martinmas

Martinmas in any Year shall pay the aforesaid Sum of Six Pounds and Six Shillings at the Term of *Martinmas* next after his Admission, as his Contribution for the Year current from the *Whitsunday* preceding, and the like Sum at the first Term of *Whitsunday* thereafter, and so on at every succeeding Term of *Whitsunday* during his Life, with Interest from and after the Terms of Payment respectively till paid, and One Twentieth Part more of the said Annual Contribution in Name of Penalty if the same be not paid within Three Months after it has become due and payable, besides the full Costs, if any, that may be incurred in prosecuting for and recovering the same.

IV. And be it enacted, That every Person who shall be admitted a Member of the said Society in consequence of an Indenture of Apprenticeship which commenced on or before the First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and three shall be at liberty to refuse to become a Contributor to the said Fund, by lodging with the Collector an Intimation of such Refusal at the Period of his Admission into the said Society; but if no such Intimation of Refusal shall be lodged, every such Person shall be held to be a Contributor to the said Widows Fund from the Day of his Admission, and shall be liable in Payment of the whole Annual Contributions or Rates and Taxes imposed by this Act, in the same Manner as if no such Option had been allowed; but always under the Exceptions and Conditions herein-after contained.

Persons entering the Society under Indenture dated prior to 1st January 1803 to have Option to accede or not.

V. And be it enacted, That every Person who at the passing of this Act shall have served an Apprenticeship to a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, or who may be then under Indenture to a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, so as to be entitled to claim Admission into the said Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet, (saving always and excepting those admitted upon Indentures which commenced before the said First Day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and three as aforesaid, and who have duly intimated that they are not to become Contributors to the said Widows Fund,) and who shall thereafter be admitted a Member of the said Society, being at the Time of his Admission above the Age of Twenty-four Years, (the Proof of his not being above that Age being incumbent on him,) shall be bound, at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* after his Admission, to make Payment to the said Collector, along with his Contribution for the current Year, of a Sum equal to One Half of the whole Rates which he would have been liable to pay if he had been admitted a Member of the said Society on the Day on which he was Twenty-four Years of Age, together with the legal Interest on the said Half, calculated from the Terms at which each Rate would have been payable, together with the legal Interest of the whole Sum from the said Term following his Admission till paid, and One Twentieth Part more of the said accumulated Sum in Name of Penalty in case of Failure to make such Payment within Three Months after the said Term, besides the full Costs of prosecuting for and recovering the same.

Payments by certain future Contributors above Twenty-four Years of Age when admitted, in Name of Age Tax.

VI. And be it enacted, That every Person who after the passing of this Act shall become an Apprentice to a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, and who shall afterwards be admitted a Member of the said Society, being at the Time of his Admission above the

Payments by certain other future Contributors above Twenty-four Years Age

of Age when
admitted, in
Name of Age
Tax.

Age of Twenty-four Years, shall be bound, on his passing Writer to the Signet, and before he shall receive his Commission as a Writer to the Signet, to make Payment to the said Collector, in addition to the Annual Contribution herein-before made payable by him as a Contributor, of a Sum in Name of Age Tax equal to the whole Annual Contributions of Six Pounds Six Shillings which he would have been liable to pay if he had been admitted a Member of the Society on the Day on which he was Twenty-four Years of Age, but without Interest on said Sum previous to the said Term of Payment.

Tax to be
paid by Con-
tributors on
Marriage.

VII. And be it enacted, That every Person, being a Contributor to the said Fund at the passing of this Act, who shall afterwards marry, shall be bound to make Payment to the said Collector, at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* after his Marriage, of the Sum of Ten Pounds Sterling in respect of such Marriage, with Interest from the said Term of Payment till paid, and One Twentieth Part more of Penalty in case of failing to make Payment of the same within Six Months after the said Term, besides the full Costs, if any, that may be incurred in prosecuting for and recovering the same; and every Person who shall become a Contributor after the passing of this Act shall, if then married, in respect of such Marriage, at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* after becoming a Contributor, or if not then married shall at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* after he shall enter into Marriage, make Payment to the said Collector of the like Sum of Ten Pounds, with Interest from such Term of Payment till paid, and One Twentieth Part more of Penalty in case of failing to make Payment of the same within Six Months after the said Term, besides the full Costs, if any, that may be incurred in prosecuting for and recovering the same; and which Marriage Tax, in the respective Cases aforesaid, shall be due and payable although the Contributor shall happen to die betwixt the Date of his Marriage, or of his becoming a Contributor, and the said Terms of Payment; and which Sum of Ten Pounds shall in like Manner be payable by every Contributor to the Fund for every succeeding Marriage which he shall enter into, and that at the Times and with Interest and Penalty as aforesaid; and those Payments or Taxes in respect of Marriage shall be over and above the Equalizing Tax after mentioned, and the ordinary Annual Contribution for the Year in which such Marriage shall take place.

Equalizing
Tax payable
by present
Contributors
on their
future Mar-
riages;

and by past
and present
Apprentices,
when they
become Con-
tributors, on
their Mar-
riage.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That every Contributor to the said Widows Fund at the passing of this Act, who shall at any Time thereafter marry a Wife more than One full Year younger than himself, shall, for and in respect of each and every such Marriage, pay to the Collector of the said Fund, for Behoof of the said Fund, in Name of an Equalizing Tax, the Sum of One Pound Ten Shillings for every full Year he is older than his Wife; and every Person who at the passing of this Act shall have served an Apprenticeship or be under Indentures of Apprenticeship to a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, so as to be entitled to claim Admission into the said Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet, and who shall thereafter be admitted into the said Society, and become a Contributor to the said Fund, shall, if married at the Time of his Admission, or if not then married,

married, whenever he shall thereafter marry, and for and in respect of every Marriage which he may enter into, if his Wife be more than One full Year younger than himself, pay to the said Collector, for Behoof of the said Fund, in Name of an Equalizing Tax, the like Sum of One Pound Ten Shillings for every full Year he is older than his Wife; which Equalizing Taxes shall be paid along with and at the same Times and Terms at which the foresaid Marriage Tax is made payable, and notwithstanding the Death of the Contributor before the Time or Term of Payment, with Interest, One Twentieth Part more of Penalty, and full Costs, if the same or any of them be incurred as aforesaid.

IX. And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall after the passing of this Act become an Apprentice to a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, and who shall afterwards be admitted a Writer to His Majesty's Signet, and become a Contributor to the said Widows Fund, shall, if married at the Time of his Admission, or if not then married, whenever he shall thereafter marry, for the first Time after his Admission, pay to the Collector of the said Fund, for Behoof of the said Fund, in Name of an Equalizing Tax, the Sum of Three Pounds Ten Shillings for every full Year his Wife shall be younger than himself at the Time of such Marriage; and every such Contributor shall for every Marriage which he may afterwards enter into, if his Wife shall be more than One full Year younger than himself, pay to the Collector of the said Fund, for Behoof foresaid, in Name of an Equalizing Tax, the following Sums, or one or other of them, as the Case may be, according to his own Age at the Time of every such Marriage; that is to say, if he is not above Thirty Years of Age, the Sum of Three Pounds Ten Shillings; if above Thirty and not above Forty, the Sum of Four Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Sixpence; if above Forty and not above Fifty, the Sum of Six Pounds; if above Fifty and not above Sixty, the Sum of Seven Pounds Seventeen Shillings and Sixpence; if above Sixty and not above Seventy, the Sum of Ten Pounds Ten Shillings; and if above Seventy, the Sum of Twelve Pounds; which Sums respectively, payable on every Marriage after the first Marriage, shall be paid for every Year his Wife shall be younger than himself, the Age of such Contributor being always taken as at his immediately preceding Birthday with reference to the Increase of the Tax by reason of his Age, and in computing the Number of Years his Wife may be younger than himself no Regard shall be had to fractional Parts of a Year, but to full and complete Years only; and which Equalizing Taxes above mentioned shall be payable at the Terms at which the said Marriage Tax is hereinbefore made payable, and notwithstanding that the Contributor may have died before the Term of Payment, and shall, if not then paid, bear Interest thereafter till paid, and be subject to the like Penalties and Costs, if any be incurred, as the said Contributor is hereinbefore made liable for in respect of the said Marriage Tax.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That in every Case where a Contributor who may be liable for the said Equalizing Taxes or any of them, to the Amount of Fifty Pounds or upwards, shall apply to the said Trustees, within One Month after the Date of the Marriage for which such Tax is payable, for Leave to have the same commuted

Equalizing Tax payable by future Contributors, according to their own Ages, and the Number of Years their Wives may be younger.

May be taken by Instalments, or an Annual Contribution payable during the

[Local.]

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Contributors,
in certain
Cases, may
be relieved
from the
Equalizing
Tax, and the
Annuities
reduced ;

but not below
50l.

Contributors
may redeem
their Annual
Contribu-
tions.

into Annual or other future Payments, then and in that Case it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, if they shall see Cause, to consent and declare that such Tax shall be so taken and accepted accordingly, instead of being paid in One Sum, and that either by fixed Instalments payable within a certain Number of Years, or by an Annual Contribution payable during the Subsistence of the said Marriage ; with Power to the said Trustees to demand Security for the due Payment of the said Instalments or Annual Contributions, and declaring that the said Equalizing Taxes shall not be commuted into an Annual Contribution to be payable during the Subsistence of the said Marriage, unless the said Trustees shall be satisfied, by the Certificates of Medical Men or otherwise, that the Contributor is not at the Time subject to any Disorder having a Tendency to shorten Life ; which Instalments or Annual Contributions shall in all Cases be fully equal in Value to the true Amount of the said Equalizing Taxes, computed as aforesaid, in lieu of which they are to be substituted, and also to the Interest thereof from the Term at which such Tax is herein-before made payable until the same be fully paid ; and such Instalments or Contributions shall, if not paid when due, bear Interest respectively until they are paid, and be subject to the like Penalties as the Annual Contributions or Rates herein-before made payable, and the said Trustees shall have the same Powers and Privileges for the Recovery thereof, with all Costs which they may or shall incur in prosecuting for the same ; declaring, nevertheless, that it shall be lawful for the said Trustees, on the Application of a Contributor within the Period aforesaid, to relieve him altogether from the Payment of any Equalizing Tax that shall amount to the said Sum of Fifty Pounds or upwards, on condition that the Annuity which would otherwise be payable to his Widow shall be reduced and diminished by such a Sum as shall be deemed equivalent to or equal in present Value with the said Equalizing Tax, and which reduced Annuity shall be then fixed and determined by the said Trustees accordingly, but subject to such Increase or Diminution, in proportion to its Account, as the full Annuities may at any Time hereafter be liable to in consequence of the Provisions herein-after contained : Provided always, that the said Annuity shall in no Case be reduced, in respect of the Nonpayment of the Equalizing Tax, below the Sum of Fifty Pounds, but that whenever the said Annuity would require to be reduced below that Sum, in the event of no Equalizing Tax being paid, then such a Portion of the said Equalizing Tax shall be payable and paid in One Sum, at Marriage, or at the Term at which the said Tax is herein-before made payable, as shall be deemed sufficient to raise the Annuity to Fifty Pounds as aforesaid, subject always to Increase or Diminution at the periodical Investigations, as herein-after provided ; and which Portion of the Equalizing Tax, if not paid when due and payable, shall bear Interest and be subject to the like Penalties and Costs as the Marriage Tax and Equalizing Tax herein-before imposed on Contributors ; and the Trustees shall have the same Powers and Privileges for the Recovery of the same.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to every present and future Contributor to the said Widows Fund, whatever may be his Age, to redeem and be relieved from the Payment of the

the foresaid Annual Contribution of Six Pounds Six Shillings payable by him as aforesaid, by making Payment to the Collector of the said Fund of the calculated Value of the said Annual Contribution according to the Age of the Contributor desirous to redeem, as the said Value is specified and contained in the Schedule annexed to this Act; the said Values being subject to such Alterations, if any, as may be made therein, as herein-after provided; and upon Payment of the Value of the said Annual Contributions, every Member so redeeming shall be discharged of his said Annual Contribution of Six Pounds Six Shillings in future, and he or his Widow shall be entitled to all the Privileges and Advantages which he or she would have enjoyed had he continued to pay the whole of such Annual Contribution during Life: Provided always, that the Contributors who thus redeem their future Annual Contributions shall nevertheless be subject to the Payment of the foresaid Marriage and Equalizing Taxes, if the same or either of them shall be afterwards exigible.

XII. And be it further enacted, That every Person who may become a Contributor to the said Fund after the passing of this Act shall, at the Time of his being admitted a Writer to the Signet, lodge with the Collector for the Time being a Certificate or other sufficient Evidence of his Age; and if such Person shall then be married, he shall at the same Time intimate that Fact to the said Collector, and shall likewise lodge a Certificate or other sufficient Evidence of the Age of his Wife; and every Person now being a Contributor to the said Fund, who shall marry after the passing of this Act, shall, within Six Months after his Marriage, lodge with the said Collector a Certificate or other sufficient Evidence of his Age; and every Contributor, present or future, who shall marry after the passing of this Act, shall within Six Months after his Marriage, and if he shall marry oftener than once shall within Six Months after each successive Marriage, intimate such Marriage to the said Collector, and shall at the same Time lodge with the said Collector a Certificate or other sufficient Evidence of the Age of his Wife, and of the Date at which such Marriage took place; and every Contributor neglecting within the Time hereby limited to lodge such Evidence with the said Collector, or to make to the said Collector such Intimation as is hereby required, shall forfeit the Sum of Ten Pounds to be paid to the said Collector, for the Use of the said Fund, with Interest from the Elapse of the Time hereby limited for lodging the said Evidence and making the said Intimation, besides the full Costs of prosecuting for and recovering the same.

Future Contributors to lodge Certificates of Age;

and if married, of the Age of their Wives.

Present Contributors, on Marriage, to lodge Certificates of Age.

All Contributors, on Marriage, to intimate Marriage, and lodge Certificate of Age of Wife, and Date of Marriage.

Penalty for Neglect.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That at the Term of *Whitsunday* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and annually at each Term of *Whitsunday* thereafter, the Treasurer to the Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet shall pay, out of the common Funds of the Society, to the said Collector, for the Benefit of the said Widows Fund, the Sum of One Pound Sterling for each Contributor to the said Fund alive at each Term of *Whitsunday* respectively when such Payment is to be made; and no Widow drawing an Annuity from the said Widows Fund shall be allowed to receive any Sum from the common Funds of the Society by way of Donation, Gratuity, or Charity.

Contribution from the general Fund of the Society.

XIV. And

Apprentices
to pay 20l. on
Indenture.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall after the passing of this Act enter into an Indenture of Apprenticeship with any Member of the said Society, whether a Contributor to the said Fund or not, to entitle such Apprentice to the Privileges of the said Society, shall be bound, before presenting the Petition for Liberty to enter into such Indenture, to pay to the said Collector the Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling, for the Benefit of the said Widows Fund, over and above the Stamp Duty for the Receipt to be given for such Payment; and no such Petition shall be received unless Payment of the said Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling shall be previously made, and a Receipt for the same by the Collector be produced; but the said Sum of Twenty Pounds shall be repaid in case such Petition shall be refused.

All the Funds
to be vested
in Trustees.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the whole Capital which has been raised for the Benefit of the said Widows Fund under the Two foresaid Acts of the Forty-third and Fifty-eighth Years of His Majesty King George the Third, however invested, whether upon Heritable or upon Personal Securities, and all Arrears of Annual Contributions, and of Marriage and Equalizing Rates or Taxes, and of Age Tax, with Interest and Penalties accruing thereon, which may be due by the present or by deceased Contributors under the foresaid Acts at the Date of the passing of this Act, as also the whole Contributions or Rates, Taxes, and Penalties imposed by this present Act, with the Interest and every Profit and Increase that may in any manner of way from Time to Time accrue thereon and thereto, shall be and the same are hereby vested in the Right Honourable *William Dundas*, the present Keeper of His Majesty's Signet for *Scotland*, and a Contributor to the said Fund, and the Keeper of His Majesty's said Signet for the Time being, if a Contributor, and *Richard Mackenzie* Esquire, Writer to the Signet, the present senior Deputy Keeper of His Majesty's said Signet, and a Contributor to the said Fund, and the Deputy Keeper, or if there be more than One Deputy Keeper the senior Deputy Keeper of the said Signet for the Time being, if a Contributor, (the said present Keeper and senior Deputy Keeper, and the Keeper and Deputy Keeper or senior Deputy Keeper for the Time being, if Contributors, or such one of them as may be a Contributor, being hereby appointed Trustees or a Trustee of and over the said Widows Fund in virtue of their respective Offices of Keeper and Deputy Keeper or senior Deputy Keeper aforesaid,) and in *James Gibson Craig*, *Alexander Douglas*, *John Bowie*, *Thomas Richardson*, *John Campbell*, and *John M'Kean*, all Writers to His Majesty's Signet, Contributors to the said Fund, and Trustees of and over the said Fund, elected by the Contributors thereto under the Authority of the Two Acts aforesaid, or in such of the Trustees so elected as may be alive and in Office as Trustees at the passing of this Act, and in their Successors in the said Office, to be elected in the Manner hereinafter directed; and the Capital and Income of the said Fund shall be applied, by Order and Direction of the said Trustees and their Successors in Office, to the Uses and Purposes after mentioned; *videlicet*, in the first place, to the Payment of any Debts or Obligations which may have been incurred by the Trustees of the said Widows Fund under the Two Acts aforesaid, with the Charges to be necessarily incurred in the Management and Administration of the said Fund in
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all Time hereafter; and, in the next place, for Payment of Annuities to Widows, as herein-after mentioned; and it shall not be lawful to apply any Part of the said Fund for or to any other Uses or Purposes whatsoever; and the Trustees aforesaid, of whom any Four are and shall be a Quorum, shall be entrusted with the Management of the said Widows Fund; and the Keeper, if a Trustee, or in his Default the Deputy Keeper, if a Trustee, or in his Default the senior Trustee of those present, shall be Preses at the Meetings of the said Trustees; and the Preses of all the said Meetings shall have an original Vote, besides a casting Vote in Cases of Equality.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That there shall be paid at the Term of *Whitsunday* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, by the said Collector, at his Office, and within the Hours after mentioned, an Annuity of Seventy Pounds Sterling to each of the Widows of Contributors who are or may be entitled to an Annuity under the former Acts; which Annuity shall continue to be paid at every ensuing Term of *Whitsunday* during the Lives of such Widows respectively, subject always to such Deductions as the said Widows Annuities were liable to under the Two foresaid Acts; and in like Manner all Widows who may become entitled to Annuities out of the said Fund after the passing of this Act shall draw the same Annuity of Seventy Pounds Sterling, to be paid half-yearly by equal Portions, beginning the first Half Year's Payment of Thirty-five Pounds at the first Term of *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* which shall occur after the Death of their Husbands respectively, subject to the Deductions or Forfeiture in certain Cases as herein-after provided; and declaring that the respective Annuities of such of the Widows who are Annuitants at the passing of this Act shall cease and determine at Twelve of the Clock at Noon on the Fifteenth Day of *May* immediately preceding the Death of the Annuitants respectively, and that the respective Annuities of such of the Widows who shall become Annuitants after the passing of this Act shall cease and determine at Twelve of the Clock at Noon of the *Whitsunday* or *Martinmas* immediately preceding the Death of such Annuitants respectively: Provided always, that the said Annuity to each of the said Widows may be diminished or augmented according to the State of the Fund and the Charges thereon, actual and contingent, as the same shall be ascertained at the periodical Investigations to be made by the Trustees as herein-after directed; and which diminished or augmented Annuities shall be payable at the same Terms and in the same Manner as the Annuities before specified; and it is hereby declared that no Widow shall forfeit her Annuity by entering into a Second or any subsequent Marriage, and although the Husband of her Second or any subsequent Marriage should be a Contributor she shall in no Case draw more than One Annuity, but every Contributor marrying the Widow of a former Contributor shall be exempted from the Marriage and Equalizing Taxes which would otherwise have been payable by him in respect of such Marriage.

Annuities to
Widows, and
Determina-
tion thereof.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That if any Contributor shall die leaving any of his Annual Contributions or Rates or Taxes unpaid, such Deduction shall be made from the Annuity payable to his Widow as shall be equal to the Arrears owing by him, with

In case of a
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Interest,

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his Widow's
Annuity.

Interest, Penalties, and Expences as before provided, reserving to the Widow all Claims which she may have for the same against the Heirs, Executors, or Representatives of her Husband: Provided always, that there shall be no Deduction on any Account from any Widow's Annuity for the first Year she shall come on the Fund, but that a Sum not exceeding One Third of the whole Year's Annuity, or One Third of the Half-year's Annuity, as the Case may be, shall be deducted yearly or termly till any Arrears of Rates or Taxes that may be due, with Interest, Penalties, and Expences incurred at the Death of the Husband, and with Interest on the accumulated Amount thereof thereafter, shall in this Manner be fully paid up; with Power nevertheless to Annuitants to pay up the whole at once, or in any larger Proportion than is hereby directed.

Forfeiture of
the Widow's
Annuity in
certain Cases.

Competent
to Widow to
apply for
Relief.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That in case any Contributor to the Fund shall die leaving his Marriage and Equalizing Taxes unpaid for Six Months after the Term of Payment thereof, or his Annual Contributions or Rates unpaid for Six or more Years, his Widow shall forfeit all Right which she might otherwise have had to any Annuity out of the said Fund: Provided nevertheless, that it shall be competent for the Widow of any such Member, upon the Death of her Husband, to apply by Petition to the Contributors for Relief; and at the first Meeting of Contributors at which such Petition shall be presented the same shall be remitted to the Trustees, for their Opinion and Report thereon; and in case it shall be the Opinion of Three Fourths of the Contributors present at a subsequent Meeting called for the special Purpose of considering the said Petition and Report, and where at least One Fourth of the whole Contributors shall be present, that the Petitioner ought to be admitted to the Privileges of the said Widows Fund, she shall be admitted accordingly; but the whole Sums owing by her Husband to the Fund, with Interest from the respective Terms of Payment, Penalties and Expences incurred, as at the Death of the Husband, and Interest on the accumulated Amount thereof, as before mentioned, shall, in such Manner as the Trustees shall direct, be deducted from her Annuity, a Deduction of at least One Third being made from every Year's Annuity till the whole Sums appointed to be deducted shall be paid up; and after the said Sums shall be wholly paid up, there shall thereafter be paid to such Widow such an Amount of Annuity as the foresaid General Meeting of Contributors shall direct, but the said Annuity shall be less than the Amount of the unrestricted Annuity payable at the Time to the Widows on the said Fund by at least One Tenth Part of the said unrestricted Annuity.

Annuities
not to be
assignable or
attachable
by Creditors.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That as the said Annuities payable to the Widows of Contributors are intended as Alimentary Provisions, the same shall not be assignable, nor be liable to be affected by Arrestment, nor be otherwise attachable by Creditors; nor shall the said Annuities be subject to the *Jus mariti* of any Husband, whom a Widow may afterwards marry, or be affectable by his Debts or Deeds, but the same shall be paid to each Annuitant entitled to receive the same, upon her own Receipt, notwithstanding such Assignment, Arrestment, Attachment, or subsequent Marriage.

XX. And be it further enacted, That every Contributor, not having made any specific Declaration in his Contract of Marriage or otherwise regarding the Annuity to which his Wife in his Right may be entitled from the said Fund in the event of her surviving him, shall have Power at any Time during his Life to declare, by a Writing under his Hand, that the Annuity to which his Widow will be entitled by his contributing to the said Fund shall be reckoned *pro tanto* of the Annuity or Jointure which he shall by his Contract of Marriage or otherwise have become bound to provide for his Wife in the event of her becoming his Widow; and the Widow in such Case shall be obliged to make a Deduction from her Claim of Annuity upon her Husband's Estate equivalent to the Benefit she shall be entitled to draw from the said Fund.

Contributors may declare the Annuity to be in part of the Provision made for their Wives.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That on every Day on which the Stated General Meetings of the Society of Writers to the Signet shall be held, and immediately after the Business of such General Meetings shall be concluded, there shall be held a General Meeting of the Contributors to the said Fund; and as soon as the whole Members of the said Society shall have become Contributors, then the Stated General Meetings of the Society shall also be Stated General Meetings of the Contributors to the said Fund; and in addition to these Meetings a Stated General Meeting of the Contributors to the said Widows Fund shall be annually held on the Third *Wednesday of June*, at Two o'Clock Afternoon: Provided always, that the Trustees, by a Minute at any of their Meetings, shall be empowered to call a General Meeting of Contributors, and they shall also be bound to call such General Meeting on a Requisition signed by any Ten Contributors to the said Fund, and that within Fourteen Days after such Requisition has been lodged with the Collector; and at all Meetings the Preses or Chairman shall sign the Minutes, and shall, besides an original Vote, have a casting Vote in all Cases of Equality; and all such Meetings shall be held at the Place which shall at the Time be the usual Place of Meeting of the said Society of Writers to the Signet, or in default thereof at such other Place within the City of *Edinburgh*, and at such Hours, as the said Trustees may appoint, when the Time of Meeting is not fixed by this Act; and it is hereby declared, that no Contributor who shall be Six Months or upwards in arrear of his Annual Rates, or by whom Marriage and Equalizing Taxes, or the Payments into which the Equalizing Taxes may be commuted, shall be due for Six Months and upwards, shall have any Vote at such General Meetings; and it is hereby further declared, that at all General Meetings Thirty Contributors at least, who are entitled to vote at such Meetings, shall be requisite to constitute a Quorum for the Dispatch of Business, but it shall be in the Power of any smaller Number of Contributors to adjourn the said Meeting till a future Day.

Stated General Meetings of Contributors.

Preses to have a Vote, and casting Vote in Cases of Equality.

No Contributor Six Months in arrear to vote at any Meeting. What Number a Quorum.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That the before-named Six Trustees elected by the Contributors shall be ranked in Seniority according to the Order in which they are named in this Act, the Trustee first named being the senior Trustee; and the said Six Trustees shall remain in Office until they shall be replaced in manner herein-after mentioned by other Trustees elected to succeed to them; and

Seniority of Trustees.

Trustees to
go out by
Rotation.

and at the Meeting to be held as aforesaid on the Third *Wednesday* of *June* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, the senior Trustee shall go out of Office, and another Trustee shall be chosen in his Place, whose Name shall be put at the Bottom of the List of Trustees; and at the General Meeting of the said Contributors to be held annually on the said Third *Wednesday* of *June*, the senior Trustee on the List shall go out of Office, and another shall be chosen in his Place; and any Person who has been a Trustee shall not be qualified to be re-elected till he has been One complete Year out of Office; and in case any Vacancy shall happen in the Office of Trustee by Death, Resignation, or otherwise, the Election of a Person to supply such Vacancy shall be made by the Contributors either at the next Stated General Meeting, or at a General Meeting which shall be called for the Purpose within One Month after the Vacancy, and the Person so elected shall be placed last on the List of Trustees.

Trustee in
arrear dis-
qualified
from acting.

XXIII. And it is hereby declared, That a Contributor who is Six Months in arrear of his Annual Rates or other Contributions as aforesaid shall not be eligible as a Trustee, and that any Trustee who shall be elected shall be disqualified from acting as a Trustee, if and while he is Six Months so in arrear.

Stated
Meetings
of Trustees.

XXIV. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall hold at least Two stated Meetings in the Year; viz. one upon the Fourteenth Day of *May*, at Two o'Clock Afternoon, and when the said Day shall happen on a *Sunday*, then on the *Saturday* immediately preceding, for making up a List of the Widows entitled to Annuities as at the Date of the said Meeting; which List, when made up and authenticated, shall be a Warrant to the Collector for Payment of the Annuities to the Widows contained in it at the Term of *Whitsunday* ensuing, upon Production of Certificates, to the Satisfaction of the Collector, of the Widows being in Life when such Annuities became due and payable; and another of the said Meetings shall be held upon any Day which may be named by the Trustees betwixt the Eleventh Day of *November* and the Eleventh Day of *December*, at Two o'Clock Afternoon; and besides these stated Meetings the Trustees shall hold such occasional Meetings as Circumstances may require, and which occasional Meetings may be called by the Keeper or Deputy Keeper, if Contributors, or by any Two of the Trustees, or by the Collector.

How the
Funds shall
be invested.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall from Time to Time lay out and invest the Monies of the said Fund, or so much thereof as may not be required for the Payment of the Annuities and other Charges aforesaid, on good and approved Heritable Securities, or in the Purchase of Government Stock, or Stock of the Bank of *England*, or Stock of the Bank of *Scotland*, or Royal Bank of *Scotland*, or of the *British* Linen Company, but no Money shall be lent out or invested by them except on such Securities or in the Purchase of such Stock; and all Heritable Bonds, or Bonds and Dispositions in Security, Dispositions, Assignations, Conveyances, and other Deeds and Instruments granted for and with reference to such Loans or Investments, shall be

be conceived and taken in favour of the said Trustees, and of their Successors in Office for the Time being, for Behoof of the said Widows Fund; and the Monies so lent out, with the Securities granted for the same, and Lands and other Heritages conveyed in Security, and the Stock so purchased, with the Assignations, Dispositions, and other Deeds or Instruments establishing a Right and Title to the same, shall thus become effectually vested in the Trustees for the Time being, without any Deed of Transference from their Predecessors in Office, with Power to the said Trustees, or a Quorum of them, to call up the Sums so lent out, and to sell the Stock so purchased, at any Time, and to discharge and to renounce or convey the said Heritable Securities; and all Receipts, Discharges, and Renunciations, Dispositions, Assignations, or other necessary Deeds and Instruments, shall, if duly executed by a Quorum of the said Trustees for the Time being, be sufficient and effectual to the Person or Persons to whom or in whose Favour the same may be granted; and also with Power to the said Trustees to lend out again, and re-invest in like Manner, from Time to Time, the Proceeds of such Loans and Investments, or such Part thereof as may not be wanted for carrying into effect the Purposes of the Trust as aforesaid: Provided always, that it shall and may be lawful for the said Trustees, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, to lay out and invest the said Monies, or such Part thereof as shall be applied, in the Purchase of Government Stock, or Stock of the Bank of *England*, in the Names of Three of their Number, to be nominated by the said Trustees for that Purpose, and to take from such of the Trustees so to be nominated such Declarations of Trust or Obligations as to the said Trustees shall appear necessary and proper, for effectually binding them so to be nominated to hold such Government Stock, or Stock of the Bank of *England*, and all Interests, Dividends, and Profits from Time to Time to become due thereon, at and subject to the Disposal and Controul of the Trustees of the said Widows Fund in regard to the purchasing, selling, and transferring, from Time to Time, such Stock, and receiving, accounting for, and paying over the Interest, Dividends, and Profits to become due thereon as aforesaid.

XXVI. And be it further enacted, That the said *Walter Cook*, the Collector of the said Fund appointed under the aforesaid Acts, shall continue in Office until the General Meeting to be held on the Third *Wednesday* of *June* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, when another Election shall take place, and when the said Collector shall either be continued or another shall be chosen in his Place; it being declared, that the Person chosen by a Majority of Contributors present at the Meeting for such Election, and not disqualified from voting as aforesaid, shall be Collector of the said Fund; and at the General Meeting to be held annually on the Third *Wednesday* of *June* thereafter the Collector shall either be re-elected, or a new Collector shall be chosen in his Place; and in case of the Death or Resignation of the Collector, a Meeting of the Trustees shall be held within Ten Days thereafter, when they shall have Power to name an Interim Collector, if they shall think it necessary, and they shall be bound immediately to call a General Meeting

Present Collector continued till June 1832.

In what Manner future Collectors to be appointed.

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of the Contributors to the Fund, to be held at One o'Clock Afternoon of the first *Monday* that shall happen during the Sitting of the Court of Session after Fourteen free Days shall have elapsed from the Date of their calling the said Meeting, at which Meeting a Collector shall be chosen, who shall remain in Office until the Meeting to be held on the Third *Wednesday* of *June* thereafter, when the same Collector shall either be continued or another shall be chosen in his Place; and the Collector shall have Power to receive and discharge the whole Income of the Fund, and to manage the Concerns of the Fund, under the Direction of the aforesaid Trustees.

Collector to keep regular Books, prepare Annual States of Funds, &c.

XXVII. And be it further enacted, That the said Collector shall keep regular Books, under the Inspection and Direction of the said Trustees, and shall annually lay his Accounts before the said Trustees at a Special Meeting to be held in the Month of *May* on such Day as the Trustees may appoint, in order to their being settled by the said Trustees, and that he shall also prepare annually a State of the Progress of the Scheme, which State he shall then lay before the Trustees, and when revised and approved of by them it shall be printed, and sent to the Contributors previous to the Annual General Meeting to be held on the Third *Wednesday* of *June*; and it is further declared, that the said Collector shall exhibit annually to the said Trustees along with his Accounts, Lists of Apprentices to Writers to the Signet, of Entrants to the said Society of Writers to the Signet, of Marriages of Contributors, of Deaths of Contributors, of Widows, and of the Deaths of Widows, arising in each Year, with the Ages; which Lists, after being approved of by the Trustees, shall be entered in a Book of Record to be kept by the Collector for that Purpose; and in case the said Trustees shall at any Time find it necessary, they shall have Power to suspend the Collector from his Office, and to name an Interim Collector, and to call a General Meeting, in the same Manner as is herein-before directed in case of the Death or Resignation of the Collector, and which General Meeting shall have full Power either to reinstate the Collector or to remove him from his Office and name another in his Place.

Collector to make up a State of the Arrears annually.

XXVIII. And be it further enacted, That the Collector shall make up a State of Arrears due by Contributors, and shall lay the same before the Trustees at the Stated Annual Meeting to be held by them between the Eleventh Day of *November* and the Eleventh Day of *December*, as aforesaid; and the said Trustees shall give such Directions thereupon as they shall think proper, and shall enter in their Sederunt Book a Minute directing the Collector to use Diligence against such Persons as they shall think necessary; and the Collector shall be obliged to raise and execute such Diligence against all such Contributors accordingly; and the Lords of Council and Session are hereby authorized and required to issue their Warrant for Letters of Horning, Arrestment, Inhibition, or other Diligence, in the Name of the Collector, against all such Persons, on Production of a Certificate signed by the Collector, certifying that the Individuals complained of are liable in the Arrears, Interest, and Penalties stated; and no Suspension of a Charge on such Letters of Horning shall be granted without Consignation of the whole Sums charged for.

XXIX. And be it further enacted, That each Collector shall, within Two Months from the Date of his Appointment, and previous to his entering upon Office, be bound to lodge with the Trustees a Bond or Bonds of Caution, with Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees, for his Intrusions and Management to the Extent of such Sum as shall be fixed at the General Meeting at which he is elected, the Sum for which Caution shall be found not being less than Ten thousand Pounds Sterling; and it is hereby declared, that after the said Collector shall be chosen, and shall have found Caution, he shall not on being re-elected be bound to find new Caution, but the Bond originally given shall continue in force, and the Cautioners therein be bound as Securities for the said Collector, during the Time of his continuing in Office, unless a Majority of the Trustees or of the Contributors present at a General Meeting shall see Cause to require a new Bond of Caution, which they are hereby empowered to do.

Collector to
give Security.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall allow to the said Collector the Sum of Two hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling *per Annum*, in full of Salary, Office Rent, and Stationery in the Office: Provided always, that any other Expences in the Management than those above mentioned shall be defrayed out of the Fund under the Direction of the Trustees; and provided further, that no Increase or Diminution of the said Salary shall take place, except on a Motion made to that Effect at a General Meeting of Contributors, and approved of at another Special Meeting called for that Purpose at the Distance of at least Ten Days.

Collector's
Salary or
Allowance.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That the Trustees shall have Power from Time to Time to name a Bank or Banking House in *Edinburgh* in which the Money collected or received shall be deposited until the same shall be otherwise disposed of by Order of the Trustees, on an Account opened in their Name, to be operated upon by Drafts signed by at least Two of the said Trustees and by the Collector for the Time being; and the Collector shall never hold in his Hands above Fifty Pounds Sterling of the Money belonging to the said Widows Fund.

Collector to
deposit the
Money in a
Bank or
Banking
House, to be
named by the
Trustees.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That the Collector shall have an Office in *Edinburgh*, to which any Person concerned may have Access from Eleven o'Clock Forenoon till Two o'Clock Afternoon, every lawful Day, *Saturdays* excepted, when the Office shall be shut at Twelve Noon; and that the Contributors shall pay the Contributions and Taxes imposed by this Act to the Collector at the said Office between the Hours above mentioned, and shall in addition thereto pay whatever Stamp Duty is due for the Receipts to be given for the same.

Office to be
kept in
Edinburgh.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That the Affairs of the said Widows Fund shall be investigated periodically by the Trustees, with such Assistance as they shall think necessary, for the Purpose of ascertaining whether the Capital realized at the Time, with the Value of the expected future Payments of the then existing Contributors,

The Affairs
of the Fund
to be inves-
tigated
periodically.

tributors, are sufficient, or more or less than sufficient, for the Payment of the Annuities charged upon the Fund at the Time, and of such Annuities as may be expected to become chargeable in respect of the said Contributors, at the Rate herein-before specified, or at such other Rate as may have been fixed under the Provisions of this Act, together with all the necessary Charges of Management; and after such Investigation the Trustees shall report what Annuities the Fund, along with the Payments expected to be made by future Apprentices and Contributors, will in their Opinion sustain and insure, not only to the Widows then on the Fund, and such as may be expected to become chargeable in respect of the then present Contributors, but also to the Widows of all such future Contributors; and the said Trustees shall further report whether the Sums herein-before made payable in Redemption of the Annual Contributions or Rates should or should not, in their Opinion, be altered during the Period that shall elapse before the next ensuing Investigation.

First Investigation to be reported to General Meeting in Nov. 1837;

and one every Seven Years thereafter.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That the first of the said Investigations shall be completed and reported by the said Trustees to the Contributors at a General Meeting to be held on the Third *Monday* in the Month of *November* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, and the next Investigation shall be completed and reported by the said Trustees to the Contributors at a General Meeting to be held on the same *Monday* in *November* One thousand eight hundred and forty-four; and in like Manner, at the End of every succeeding Period of Seven Years, or in every Seventh Year, an Investigation shall be made and reported by the Trustees to the Contributors at the said General Meeting in *November* of that Year; all such Reports to have reference to the State of the Fund as it shall be found to be on the Fifteenth Day of *May* immediately preceding, or at any later Period to which the same can be made up and rendered applicable.

Reports of the Investigations, in certain Cases, to be printed and laid before Special General Meetings.

Power to alter the Annuities.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That if at any Time it be reported that an Alteration ought to be made upon the Rate of Annuity then payable, or upon the Sums herein-before made payable in Redemption of the Annual Rates, the Trustees shall forthwith cause the said Report to be printed, and a Copy thereof transmitted to each of the Contributors to the said Widows Fund, and at the same Time they shall call a Special General Meeting of the said Contributors to be held within not less than Eight Days and not more than Fourteen Days thereafter, for the Purpose of considering the said Report, and the Alterations proposed therein; at which Meeting another Special General Meeting shall be appointed to be held and shall be held within not less than One Month and not more than Two Months thereafter, for finally deciding thereupon, and adopting such Resolution respecting the Amount of the Annuity, and of the Redemption Money, or either of them, for the next ensuing Period of Seven Years, as the State of the Fund and the Rate of Interest may render necessary or expedient; with Power to the last of the said Special General Meetings, if there shall appear to be a Deficiency of Funds to secure the Annuity herein-before specified, or which at the Time may be payable to the Widows of Contributors, to reduce

reduce the said Annuity, and if there shall appear to be a Surplus of Funds beyond what is necessary to secure the Annuity herein-before specified, or which may be payable to the Widows of Contributors at the Time, to raise the said Annuity as they may see cause; with Power also to the said General Meeting, in case the Annuities herein-before specified, or such Annuities as may be payable at the Time under the Authority of this Act, shall be raised either at once or by successive Augmentations at the Rate of Ten *per Cent.* or more, to make a corresponding Addition to the Marriage Tax and Equalizing Tax to be paid by all future Contributors, and also to raise or reduce the Sums payable in Redemption of the Annual Rates according to the Rate of Interest at which the Capital of the said Widows Fund shall have been invested on an Average of the Seven Years immediately preceding; and which Annuity, Taxes, and Redemption Money shall, till again altered, be payable at the Times and Terms and be subject to all the Provisions and Declarations contained in this Act in regard to the Annuities, Taxes, and Redemption Money herein-before specified: Provided always, that it shall be in the Power of such Special General Meetings, in the event of the Fund being found sufficient at any Time to secure an Annuity of One hundred Pounds to all the Widows, to declare and resolve that all further Increase thereof shall cease, and that every Surplus that may accrue thereafter shall be disposed of as the said Contributors may think proper and expedient for the Interest of all concerned; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

XXXVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Alteration shall be made in the Rate of Annuity herein-before specified, or in the Sums payable in Redemption of the Annual Rates contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed, to take effect before the Fifteenth Day of *May* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; nor shall any Alteration be made at any Time in the Annuity and Redemption Money as fixed, after any periodical Investigation shall be made and reported and decided upon as aforesaid, until another periodical Investigation shall be made and reported.

But no Alteration to be made before Whitsunday 1838.

XXXVII. And be it further enacted, That in every Case where Interest is made payable by this Act such Interest shall be calculated and paid according to the highest Rate allowed by Law to be taken.

Interest to be calculated at the highest Rate.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That the whole Penalties imposed by this Act shall be paid and levied in every Case without Modification.

No Modification of Penalties.

XXXIX. And whereas some Members of the said Society of Writers to the Signet are not at present Contributors to the said Fund, and are or may be desirous to be admitted to a Participation of the Benefits thereof; be it therefore enacted, That every Person being now a Member of the said Society, but not a Contributor to the Fund, who by a Writing under his Hand, to be delivered to the said Collector within Three Months after the passing of this Act, shall declare his Resolution to become a Contributor thereto, shall be bound at the Term of *Whitsunday* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-two to

Writers to the Signet, Non-contributors, may become Contributors under certain Conditions.

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make Payment to the said Collector of a Sum equal to the Age, Marriage, and Equalizing Taxes which he would be liable to pay if he were for the first Time to become a Member of the said Society under the Provisions of this Act, according to his present Age, and the Age of his Wife, if married, together with such further Sum, if any, as an Actuary or Accountant, to be named for the Purpose by the Trustees, having reference to the State of Health of the Applicant, may report to be necessary, for rendering the Contributions fairly equivalent, in the Circumstances of each Individual, to the Benefits resulting from a Participation in the Fund; and upon such Payment being so made at the said Term, or within Thirty Days thereafter, every such Person shall be admitted to Participation and shall be liable in all the Obligations incumbent on other Contributors, and his Widow shall be entitled to all the Benefit and subject to all the Conditions and Declarations of this Act; but no Person of the Description aforesaid shall be admitted to such Participation who shall fail to make and deliver such Declaration as aforesaid, and to make Payment as aforesaid, at the said Term of *Whitsunday* in the same Year, or within Thirty Days thereafter.

Forfeiture to Widows in certain Cases of irregular Marriage.

XL. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases of irregular Marriage of future Contributors who shall have entered into Indenture after the passing of this Act, where no Intimation of the said Marriage shall have been made to the Collector of the said Fund during the Lifetime of the Contributor, and where the Marriage and Equalizing Taxes have not been duly paid or satisfied during his Lifetime, the Widow of the said Contributor shall not be entitled to any Annuity out of the said Widows Fund; and further, in all such Cases of irregular Marriage of such Contributors, although duly intimated to the said Collector, and whether the said Taxes have been paid or not, where the Decease of the Contributor shall have taken place within Sixty Days after the Date of such Intimation, the Annuity payable to the Widow of such Contributor shall be restricted to such Sum as the said Trustees shall deem just and reasonable in the particular Circumstances of the Case, it being hereby declared that such restricted Annuity shall in no Case exceed the Sum of Fifty Pounds Sterling; any thing herein-before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Power to Trustees in certain Cases to demand Certificate of Health before Admission of Contributors.

XLI. And be it further enacted, That in all Cases where more than Twenty-five Years have elapsed between the Expiration of Apprenticeship and the Date of such Apprentice's Admission as a Writer to the Signet, it shall be in the Power of the said Trustees, if they think fit, to require Evidence to their Satisfaction of his being in good Health at the Time of his Admission as a Writer to the Signet, and failing such Evidence (of which the Trustees shall judge without Appeal) such Person shall be excluded from the Benefit of this Act, except on Payment of such additional Rates or Taxes as to the said Trustees may appear just in the Circumstances of the Case; any thing herein-before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Trustees may sue or be sued in

XLII. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees may sue and be sued for and concerning all Matters and Things arising out of

of the said Widows Fund, or connected therewith, and with the Management and Administration and Recovery of the same, whether as falling due and acquired under the Two former Acts or under this Act, in the Name of the Collector for the Time being; and that no Action or Suit wherein the said Trustees shall be concerned as Pursuers or Defenders, Plaintiffs or Defendants, in the Name of the said Collector, shall fall or abate by the Death, Resignation, or Removal of any such Collector, but that the Collector of the said Widows Fund for the Time being shall be deemed to be the Pursuer or Defender, Plaintiff or Defendant (as the Case may be) in every such Action or Suit; and it is hereby further declared, that in any Suit or Action which the said Trustees may have Occasion to raise in the Name of the said Collector, against any of the said Contributors, for Payment of the Contributions and Taxes imposed by this Act, or any of them, a State of the Arrears, and of the Interest and Penalties that may have accrued or been incurred thereon, made up and certified by the said Collector, shall be held to be sufficient Evidence that the Sums therein contained are justly due and payable by such Contributor, unless such State shall be instructed by written Evidence to be erroneous.

Name of
Collector.

XLIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Trustees shall not be liable for Omissions, nor for the Solvency of the Debtors to whom the Funds hereby placed under their Charge be lent out, nor of the Banks in which these Funds may be deposited, nor *in solidum*, but each only for his own actual Intromissions, Acts, or Deeds; and the said Trustees shall be indemnified out of the said Funds of all necessary Expences which they may be put to in the Execution of their Office.

Trustees to
be liable for
Intromissions
only, and to
be reim-
bursed of all
necessary
Expences.

XLIV. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful to the said Trustees to make such Regulations from Time to Time as may be found expedient in the Discharge of the Duties herein-before required of them, and for beneficially managing and administering the Fund committed to their Charge; and which Regulations shall continue in force and may be acted upon until the first Stated General Meeting of Contributors after the passing thereof, and if then approved of shall continue in force until they or any of them are altered by the said Trustees themselves, or by any General Meeting of the said Contributors: Provided always, that such Regulations shall not be repugnant to the Laws of this Realm, nor inconsistent with the Provisions and Declarations herein-before contained, and the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Power to
Trustees to
make Rules
and Regu-
lations.

XLV. And be it further enacted, That the Expences incurred in obtaining this Act and preparatory thereto shall be paid by the Trustees out of the Fund under their Management.

Expence of
Act how to
be defrayed.

XLVI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and others, without the same being specially pleaded.

Public Act.

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SCHEDULE to which the foregoing Act refers.

REDEMPTION of ANNUAL RATES.

Ages.	Values.	Ages.	Values.	Ages.	Values.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
24	118 18 4	47	92 14 9	69	50 18 2
25	117 18 7	48	91 4 0	70	48 15 2
26	116 18 6	49	89 10 4	71	46 10 9
27	115 17 6	50	87 14 5	72	44 8 9
28	114 16 6	51	85 16 1	73	42 10 9
29	113 16 7	52	83 17 2	74	40 16 11
30	112 18 3	53	81 17 7	75	39 9 3
31	111 19 8	54	79 17 4	76	38 2 0
32	111 0 4	55	77 15 11	77	36 16 11
33	109 19 10	56	75 13 8	78	35 11 2
34	108 18 2	57	73 10 7	79	34 2 4
35	107 15 8	58	71 7 8	80	32 15 8
36	106 12 3	59	69 6 10	81	31 6 7
37	105 8 3	60	67 8 10	82	30 0 4
38	104 3 7	61	65 15 4	83	28 13 7
39	102 18 5	62	64 2 4	84	27 7 7
40	101 13 4	63	62 8 10	85	26 0 7
41	100 9 2	64	60 13 6	86	24 16 11
42	99 5 3	65	58 17 4	87	23 17 9
43	98 1 5	66	56 19 9	88	23 5 11
44	96 16 6	67	55 0 7	89	22 12 6
45	95 10 8	68	53 0 1	90	21 12 1
46	94 3 6				