

any thing therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

CAP. XXVI.

*An act for the better preventing the counterfeiting the current coin of this kingdom.*

**W**HEREAS notwithstanding the good laws still in force against the counterfeiting of the monies and coins of this realm, yet the said offence doth and is like daily to increase, to the manifest wrong and injury both of his Majesty and all his loving subjects, being very much occasioned for want of a due and condign punishment to be inflicted upon such artificers and others, who without any lawful authority do make or use puncheons, stamps, dyes, and other engines and instruments, which are commonly used, or may be made use of, in or about the coining of money: for redress of which so great and growing a mischief, 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 fifteenth day of *May*, one thousand six hundred ninety seven, no smith, engraver, founder, or other person or persons whatsoever (other than and except the persons employed or to be employed in or for his Majesty's mint or mints in the tower of *London*, or elsewhere, and for the use and service of the said mints only, or persons lawfully authorized by the lords commissioners of the treasury, or lord high treasurer of *England* for the time being) shall knowingly make or mend, or begin or proceed to make or mend, or assist in the making or mending of any puncheon, counter puncheon, matrix, stamp, dye, pattern, or mould of steel, iron, silver, or other metal or metals, or of spaud, or fine founders earth, or sand, or of any other materials whatsoever, in or upon which there shall be, or be made or impressed, or which will make or impress the figure, stamp, resemblance or similitude of both or either of the sides or flats of any gold or silver coin, current within this kingdom, nor shall knowingly make or mend, or begin or proceed to make or mend, or assist in the making or mending of any edger or edging tool, instrument, or engine, not of common use in any trade, but contrived for marking of money round the edges with letters, grainings, or other marks or figures resembling those on the edges of money coined in his Majesty's mint, nor any prefs for coinage, nor any cutting engine, for cutting round blanks by force of a screw out of flatted bars of gold, silver, or other metal, nor shall knowingly buy or sell, hide or conceal, or without lawful authority or sufficient excuse for that purpose, knowingly have in his, her or their houses, custody or possession, any such puncheon, counter puncheon, matrix, stamp, dye, edger, cutting engine, or other tool or instrument before mentioned; and if any smith, engraver, founder, or other person or persons whatsoever, (other than and except as aforesaid) shall offend in any the matters or things aforesaid, then all and every such offender and offenders, their coun-

No smith, &c. except employed in the mint, &c. shall make or mend any dye, &c. to stamp any current coin of gold or silver, nor make any edging tool, &c. nor coining prefs, nor cutting engine, nor have in their custody any such.

Offenders, &c. guilty of high treason, and shall suffer death.

fellors, procurers, aiders and abettors, shall be, and is and are hereby adjudged to be guilty of high treason, and being of the said offences, or any of them, convicted or attainted, according to the order and course of the laws of this realm, shall suffer death as in case of high treason.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever, from and after the said fifteenth day of *May*, shall without lawful authority for that purpose, wittingly or knowingly convey or assist in the conveying out of his Majesty's mint in the tower of *London*, or out of any other of his Majesty's mints, any puncheon, counter puncheon, matrix, dye, stamp, edger, cutting engine, prefs, or other tool, engine or instrument used for or about the coining of monies there, or any useful part of such tools or instruments, that then as well the said person and persons so offending, their counsellors, procurers, aiders or abettors, as also all and every person and persons knowingly receiving, hiding or concealing the same, shall be, and is and are hereby adjudged to be guilty of high treason, and being of the said offences, or any of them, convicted or attainted according to the order and course of the laws of this realm, shall suffer death as in case of high treason.

Persons conveying out of the mint any puncheon, &c. and concealing the same, to be guilty of high treason.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons (other than the persons employed in his Majesty's mint or mints, or such as shall have authority from the lords commissioners of the treasury, or lord high treasurer of *England* for the time being) shall after the said fifteenth day of *May*, mark on the edges any the current coin of this kingdom, or if any person or persons whatsoever shall mark on the edges any of the diminished coin of this kingdom, or any counterfeit coin resembling the coin of this kingdom, with letters or grainings, or other marks or figures like unto those on the edges of money coined in his Majesty's mint, every such offence shall be and is hereby adjudged to be high treason, and the offender and offenders therein, his and their counsellors, procurers, aiders and abettors, being thereof convicted or attainted according to the order and course of the laws of this realm, shall suffer death as in case of high treason.

Like penalty on persons marking the edges of any counterfeit coin,

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever, after the said fifteenth day of *May*, shall colour, gild, or case over with gold or silver, or with any wash or materials producing the colour of gold or silver, any coin resembling any the current coin of this kingdom, or any round blanks of base metal, or of coarse gold or coarse silver of a fit size and figure to be coined into counterfeit milled money resembling any the gold or silver coin of this kingdom, or if any person or persons shall gild over any silver blanks of a fit size and figure to be coined into pieces resembling the current gold coin of this kingdom, all and every such person and persons so offending, their counsellors, procurers, aiders and abettors, shall be, and is and are hereby adjudged to be guilty of high treason, and being convicted or attainted thereof, according to the order and course of the laws of this realm, shall suffer death as in case of high treason.

or colouring, gilding, &c. any coin resembling the current coin.

Puncheon, dye, &c. found in the possession of any person not employed in the mints, may be seized and produced in evidence,

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any puncheon, dye, stamp, edger, cutting engine, press, flask, or other tool, instrument, or engine, used or designed for coining or counterfeiting gold or silver monies, or any part of such tool or engine, shall, at any time after the said fifteenth day of *May*, be hid or concealed in any place, or found in the house, custody, or possession of any person or persons whatsoever, not then employed in the coining of money in some of his Majesty's mints, nor having the same by some lawful authority, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons whatsoever, discovering the same, to seize, and he and they are hereby required to seize the same, and to carry them forthwith to some justice of peace of the county, city, or place where the same shall be so seized, and by him secured, to be produced in evidence against any person or persons who shall or may be prosecuted for any such offence, in some court of justice proper for the determination thereof, and after such time as they or any of them shall have been produced in evidence, as well the same so produced, as the other so seized, and not made use of in evidence, and every of them, shall forthwith by order of that court where such offender or offenders shall be tried, or by order, and in the presence of such or some other justice of the peace, in case there be no such trial, be totally defaced and destroyed; and if, after the said fifteenth day of *May*, any counterfeit or unlawfully diminished money shall be produced in any court of justice, either in evidence against any person or persons for any offence relating to the counterfeiting or unlawfully diminishing of money, or otherwise, that then, or immediately after evidence given, the judge or judges of such court shall cause such monies to be cut in pieces in open court, or in the presence of some justice of the peace, and then to be delivered to or for such person or persons to whom the same of right shall appertain.

Counterfeit money, &c. produced in evidence or otherwise, to be afterwards cut in pieces.

Persons blanching copper for sale, or mixing blanching copper with silver, &c. or taking or paying counterfeit milled money, &c.

VI. And whereas several mixtures of metals have been invented in imitation of gold and silver, and blanching copper is principally made use of in imitation of silver, and seldom, if ever, for any honest or good purpose; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons whatsoever, after the said fifteenth day of *May*, shall blanch copper for sale, or mix blanching copper with silver, or knowingly buy or sell, or offer to sell, blanching copper alone, or mixed with silver, or shall knowingly and fraudulently buy or sell, or offer to sell, any malleable composition or mixture of metals or minerals, which shall be heavier than silver, and look, and touch, and wear like standard gold, but be manifestly worse than standard, or shall take, receive, pay, or put off, any counterfeit milled money, or any milled money whatsoever unlawfully diminished, and not cut in pieces, at or for a lower rate or value than the same by its denomination doth or shall import, or was coined or counterfeited for, that then all and every such person and persons shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony, and, being thereof convicted or attainted, according to the order and course of the laws of this realm, shall suffer death as in case of felony.

to be guilty of felony,

VII. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act, or any thing therein contained, or any attainder or attainders of any person or persons for any offence or offences made treason or felony by this act, shall not in any wise extend, or be judged, interpreted, or expounded, to make any corruption of blood to any the heir or heirs of any such offender or offenders, or to make the wife of any such offender to lose or forfeit her dower of or in any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or her title, action, or interest to the same; and that all and every person or persons that shall at any time after the said fifteenth day of *May*, be accused or impeached of any the offences made treason or felony by this act, shall or may be indicted, arraigned, tried, convicted, or attainted, by such like evidence, and in such manner and form, as now are, or may by the laws of this realm be had or used against any offender or offender for counterfeiting the King's money; any thing in this act contained, or any other law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Attainder by this act not to make corruption of blood, &c. By what evidence offenders may be convicted.

VIII. And for the rendring more effectual an act made in the sixth and seventh years of his Majesty's reign, intituled, *An act to prevent counterfeiting and clipping the coin of this kingdom*; be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the crimes and offences, specified and mentioned in the said act, may be heard and determined upon indictment or presentment either in his Majesty's court of *King's Bench*, or before the justices of *oyer and terminer*, or justices of assize, or general gaol delivery.

Offences in 6 & 7 W. 3. c. 17. may be heard in the King's Bench, or at a gaol delivery.

IX. Provided always, and be it enacted, That this act shall continue and be in force until the end of the next session of parliament, and no longer; and that no prosecution shall be made for any offence against this act, unless such prosecution be commenced within three months after such offence committed. *This act made perpetual by 7 Annæ, cap. 25. sect. 3. and by sect. 2. the makers or menders of tools are to be prosecuted within six months.*

Prosecution to be in three months. By 9 & 10 W. 3. c. 21. s. 1. any person may deface counterfeited money.

C A P. XXVII.

*An act for the more effectual relief of creditors in cases of escapes, and for preventing abuses in prisons and pretended privileged places.*

WHEREAS by reason of the many grievous extortions and ill practices of such persons who have for several years past respectively executed the offices of marshal of the King's Bench, warden of the Fleet, and keeper of the Marshalsea, Newgate, and other prisons, and by several pretended privileged places within this realm, both creditors and debtors have been notoriously abused, and the good intents of the law wholly eluded: for reformation thereof 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 first day of *May*, one thousand six hundred ninety seven, all prisoners, either upon contempt or

Prisoners in the King's Bench or

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THE  
**Statutes at Large,**  
FROM THE  
Eighth Year of King WILLIAM III.  
TO THE  
Second Year of Queen ANNE.  
BY  
DANBY PICKERING, of GRAY'S INN, Esq;

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THE  
**Statutes at Large,**

FROM THE *Thomas James*  
Eighth Year of King WILLIAM III.

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To which is prefixed,  
A TABLE containing the TITLES of all the STATUTES  
during that Period.

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By DANBY PICKERING, of Gray's-Inn, Esq;  
Reader of the Law Lecture to that Honourable Society.

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CUM PRIVILEGIO.