

*Printed by W. Stansfeld*  
*at the Sign of the Sun in St. Dunstons Church-yard*

**Whereas** printers Booksellers and  
other persons trade of late frequently taken  
the liberty of printing reprinting and publishing  
or causing to be printed reprinted and published  
Books and other writings without the consent  
of the authors or proprietors of such books  
and writings to their very great Detriment and  
too often to the Ruine of them and their families  
**For** preventing therefore such practices for  
the future and for the encouragement of learned  
men to compose and write usefull books **May**  
**it please your Majestie** That it may  
be enacted And be it enacted by the Queenes  
Most Excellent Majestie by and with the advice  
and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporall  
and Commons in this present Parliament assembled  
and by the authority of the same That from and  
after the Twelfth day of April One  
thousand seven hundred and ten the Author of  
any Book or books already printed who hath not  
transferred to any other the Copy or Copies of such  
Book or books share or shares thereof or the  
Bookseller or Booksellers Printer or printers  
or other person or persons who hath or have  
purchased or acquired the Copy or Copies of any  
Book or books in order to print or reprint the  
same shall have the sole right and liberty of  
printing such Book and books for the term of  
One and twenty Years to commence from the said  
Twelfth day of April and not longer  
And that the Author of any Book or books  
already composed and not printed and published  
or that shall hereafter be composed and his Assignee  
or Assignees shall have the sole liberty of printing  
and reprinting such Book and books for the term  
of fourteen Years to commence from the day of the  
first publishing the same and not longer And  
that if any <sup>other</sup> Bookseller printer or other person

whosoever from and after the Twelfth day of April One thousand seven hundred and ten will in the time granted and limited by this Act as aforesaid shall print reprint or import or cause to be printed reprinted or imported any such Book or books without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing signed in the presence of two or more Credible Witnesses knowing the same to be printed or reprinted without the consent of the proprietors shall sell publish or expose to sale or cause to be sold published or exposed to sale any such Book or books without such consent first had and obtained as aforesaid Every such offender or offenders shall forfeit such Book or books and all and every sheet or sheets being part of such Book or books to the proprietor or proprietors of the Copy thereof who shall for the same Damages and

obtained as aforesaid That such offender or offenders  
shall forfeit such Book or Books and all and every  
sheet or sheets being part of such Book or  
Books to the Proprietor or Proprietors of the  
Copy thereof who shall for the same damages and  
make wast paper of them And further that  
every such offender or offenders shall forfeit one  
penny for every sheet which shall be found in  
his or their custody either printed or printing  
published or exposed to sale contrary to the true  
intendment meaning of this Act the one Moiety  
thereof to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty  
his heirs and Successors and the other Moiety  
thereof to any person or persons that shall sue  
for the same to be recovered in any of her Majesties  
Courts of Record at Westminster by Action of Debt  
Bill Plaintiff or Information in which no wages  
of Law Foreign Privilege or Protection or more  
than one Imparlant shall be allowed And  
whereas many persons may through ignorant  
Offend against this Act unless some provision be  
made whereby the property in every such Book  
as is intended by this Act to be seized to the  
Proprietor or Proprietors thereof may be as  
ascertained as likewise the consent of such  
Proprietor or Proprietors for the printing or  
reprinting of such Book or Books may from  
time to time be known Be it therefore  
further Enacted by the authority aforesaid  
That nothing in this Act contained

3 shall be construed to extend to subject any Bookseller  
printer or other person whatsoever to the forfeiture  
or penalties therein intimated for or by reason of  
the printing or reprinting any Book or Books  
without such consent as aforesaid unless the  
copy of such Book or Books which he publishes  
shall be first published or entered in the Register  
Book of the Company of Stationers in such manner  
as hath been usual which Register Book shall  
at all times be kept at the Hall of the said Company  
And unless such consent of the Proprietor or  
Proprietors be in like manner entered as aforesaid  
for every of which several entries six pence shall  
be paid and not more And that said Register Book  
may at all seasons be and convenient times be  
referred to and inspected by any Bookseller  
printer or other person for the purpose before  
mentioned without any fee or charge And  
the Clerk of the said Company of Stationers shall  
when and as often as therunto required give a  
Certificate under his hand of such duty or entry  
and for every such Certificate may take a fee of  
exceeding six pence Provided nevertheless  
that if the Clerk of the said Company of Stationers  
for the time being shall refuse or neglect to Register  
or make such entry or entries or to give such Certificate  
being therunto required by the author or proprietor  
of such Copy or Copies in the presence of two or more  
credible witnesses That then such person and persons  
so refusing notice being first duly given of such  
refusal by an Adverser thereto in the presence shall  
have the like benefit as if such duty or entry  
Certificate or Certificates had been duly made and  
given And that the Clerk so refusing shall for  
any such Offence forfeit to the Proprietor of such  
Copy or Copies the sum of Twenty pounds to  
be recovered in any of her Majesties Courts of  
Record at Westminster by Action of Debt Bill  
Plaintiff or Information in which no wages of Law  
Foreign Privilege or Protection or more than one  
Imparlant shall be allowed Provided nevertheless

Hereof that no person by action or otherwise shall  
claim or information in writing or otherwise of law  
privilege or protection or more than out  
of parliament shall be allowed **Provided** nevertheless  
that if it is hereby further enacted by the  
authority aforesaid that if any Bookseller or  
Booksellers Printer or Printers shall after the said  
fifteenth day of March next ensuing  
begin to print or sell any Book or Books at such a  
price or rate as shall be thought by any person or  
persons to be too high and unreasonable it shall  
and may be lawful for any person or persons to make  
complaint thereof to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury  
for the time being the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper  
of the Great Seal of Great Britain for the time being  
the Lord Bishop of London for the time being the Lord  
Chief Justice of the King's Bench the Lord Chief Justice  
of the Court of Common Pleas the Lord Chief Baron  
of the Court of Exchequer for the time being the  
Vice Chancellors of the two Universities for the  
time being in that part of Great Britain called England  
the Lord President of the Sessions for the time being  
the Lord Justice General for the time being the Lord  
Chief Baron of the Exchequer for the time being the  
Rector of the College of Edinburgh for the time being in  
that part of Great Britain called Scotland or  
any one of them shall and lawfully by full power  
and authority from time to time to send for summon  
or call before him or them such Booksellers or  
Booksellers Printer or Printers and to examine and  
enquire of the reason of the dearth and enhancement  
of the price or value of such books or books by him  
or them so sold or exposed to sale and if upon such  
enquiry and examination it shall be found that the  
price of such books or books is enhanced or any  
wise too high and unreasonable then and in such case  
the said Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Chancellor  
or Lord Keeper Bishop of London two Chief Justices  
Chief Baron Vice Chancellors of the Universities  
in that part of Great Britain called England and  
the said Lord President of the Sessions Lord Justice  
General Lord Chief Baron and Rector of the College  
of Edinburgh in that part of Great Britain called  
Scotland or any one or more of them so enquiring  
and examining shall thereon have full power and authority  
to reform and reduce the same and to limit and settle  
the price of every such printed book and books  
from time to time according to the best of their  
judgments and as to them shall seeme just and  
reasonable and in case of alteration of the rate or  
price from what was set or demanded by such  
Booksellers or Booksellers Printer or Printers to  
award and order such Booksellers and Booksellers  
Printer and Printers to pay all the costs and charges  
that the person or persons so complaining shall be  
put unto by reason of such complaint and of the  
raising such rate or price to be so limited and settled  
- All which shall be done by the said Archbishop of  
Canterbury Lord Chancellor Lord Keeper Bishop of  
London two Chief Justices Chief Baron Vice Chancellors  
of the two Universities in that part of Great Britain  
called England and the Lord President of the Sessions  
Lord Justice General Lord Chief Baron and Rector  
of the College of Edinburgh in that part of Great  
- Britain called Scotland or any one of them by or  
writing under their hands and seals and three of  
publick notice shall be forthwith given by the said  
Booksellers or Booksellers Printer or Printers by  
an advertisement in the Gazette and if any  
Booksellers or Booksellers Printer or Printers  
shall alter such settlements

of the two Universities in that part of Great Brittain  
called England and the <sup>saye</sup> President of the Session of  
Lord Justice Generall Lord Chief Justice and Barons and Justices  
of the Colledge of Edinburgh in that part of Great  
Brittain called Scotland or any one of them by or  
writing under their handes and Seales And thre of  
publike notie shall be forthwith given by the said  
Bookeseller or Bookesellers printer or printers by  
an Advertisement in the Gazette And if any  
Bookeseller or Bookesellers printer or printers  
shall after such Statment made of the said rate  
and price sell or expose to sale any Booke or Booke  
at a lighter or greater price than what shall have  
been so limited and settled as aforesaid Then and  
in every such case such Bookeseller and Bookesellers  
printer and printers shall forfeit the sume of  
five poundes for every such booke so by them sold or  
thru sold or exposed to sale One moiety thereof  
to the Queenes Most Excellent Majestie her heirs  
and Successours and the other moiety to any person  
or persons that shall sue for the same to be recovered  
with costs of suite in any of the Majesties Court  
of Record at Westminster by Action of Debt Bill  
plaint or Information in w<sup>ch</sup> shall not waige of Law  
Soygne privilege or protection or more than  
One Imparlamt shall be allowed **Provided**  
alwaye and it is hereby Enacted that n<sup>ext</sup> Copie  
of each booke or booke upon the best paper that  
from and after the said Twelfth day  
of April One thousand seven hundred and ten  
shall be printed and published as aforesaid or  
Reprinted and published with additions

shall by the printer and printers thereof be delivered  
to the Warehousekeeper of the said Company of  
Stationers for the time being at the Hall of the  
said Company before such publication made for  
the use of the Royall Library the Libraries of the  
Universities of <sup>the University of the four Universities in England</sup> Oxford and Cambridge the  
Library of Stou Colledge in London and the Library  
belonging to the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh  
respectively in which said Warehousekeeper  
thereby required within ten dayes after demand  
by the Keepers of the respective Libraries or any  
person or persons by them or any of them authorized  
to demand the said Copie to deliver the same for the use  
of the aforesaid Libraries And if any Proprietor  
Bookeseller or printer or the said Warehousekeeper  
of the said Company of Stationers shall not  
observe the directions of this Act therein That then  
he and they so making default in not delivering the said  
printed Copie as aforesaid shall forfeit besides the  
value of the said printed Copie the sume of five  
poundes for every Copie not so delivered as also the  
value of the said printed Copie not so delivered  
the same to be recovered by the Queenes Majestie  
her heirs and Successours and by the Chancellor  
Masters and Scholars of any of the said  
Universities and by the President and Justices of Stou  
Colledge and the said Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh  
with their full costs respectively **Provided**  
alwaye and be it further Enacted that if any person  
or persons within the penalties contained in this  
Act in that part of Great Brittain called Scotland  
they shall be recoverable by any Action before the  
Court of Session the <sup>saye</sup> **Provided** that nothing in this Act  
contained do extend or shall be construed to extend  
to prohibit the Importation or Landing or  
selling of any Booke in Greek Latin or any  
other foreign Language printed or  
beyond the seas any thing in  
this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding  
And be it further Enacted by the authority  
aforesaid that if any Action or suite shall be

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 thereby required within ten dayes after demand  
 by the Keepers of the respective Libraries or any  
 person or persons by them or any of them authorized  
 to demand the said Copy to deliver the same for the use  
 of the aforesaid Libraries And if any Proprietor or  
 Seller or Printer or the said Warehouse keeper  
 of the said Company of Stationers shall not  
 observe the directions of this Act therein That then  
 he and they so making default in not delivering the said  
 printed Copies as aforesaid shall forfeit besides the  
 value of the said printed Copies the sum of five  
 pounds for every Copy not so delivered As also the  
 value of the said printed Copy not so delivered  
 the same to be recovered by the Justices of the  
 Peace and Sessions and by the Chamberlaine  
 Mayor and Scholars of any of the said Uni-  
 versities and by the President and fellows of Saint  
 Colledge and the said faculty of Doctors at Emburg  
 with their full costs respectively PROVIDED  
 also and be it further enacted that if any person  
 or persons during the penalties contained in this  
 Act in that part of Great Brittain called Scotland  
 they shall be recoverable by any Action before the  
 Court of Session there ~~and~~  
~~or~~ PROVIDED that nothing in this Act  
 contained do extend or shall be construed to extend  
 to prohibit the Importation or Landing or  
 Selling of any Booke in Greek Latin or any  
 other foreign Language printed ~~and~~  
~~or~~ beyond the seas any thing in  
 this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding  
 And be it further enacted by the authority  
 aforesaid that if any Action or Suite shall be  
 commenced or brought against any person or

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 person whatsoever for doing or causing to be done  
 any thing in pursuance of this Act the Defendant  
 in such Action may plead the Generall Issue and  
 give the speciall matter in evidence and if upon such  
 Action a verdict be given for the Defendant or the  
 Plaintiff become nonsuited or discontinued this Action  
 then the Defendant shall have and recover in full  
 costs for which he shall have the same remedy as a  
 Defendant in any case by Law hath PROVIDED  
 that nothing in this Act contained shall extend or  
 be construed to extend either to prejudice or to infringe  
 any right that the said Universities or any  
 of them or any person or persons have or claim  
 to have to the printing or reprinting any booke  
 or Copy already printed or hereafter to be printed  
 PROVIDED nevertheless that all Actions Suits  
 Bills indictments or Informations for any offences  
 that shall be committed against this Act shall not  
 be brought sued and commenced within three months  
 next after such Offence committed or else the same  
 shall be void and of none effect

Hills indistinctly or Informations for any offence  
that shall be committed against this Act shall not  
be brought sued and commenced within twelve months  
next after such offence committed.

(A) PROVIDED always that after the expiration of the  
said term of fourteen years the sole right of printing  
or disposing of Copies shall return to the Authors —  
unless if they are then living for another term of  
seven years.