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To alter and extend the provisions of the
54th George Third, cap. 156, with respect to
Dramatic Writings.

Note.—The Words printed in *Italics* are proposed to be inserted
in the Committee.

W^H**E**^R**E**^E**S** by an Act passed in the Fifty-fourth year of the Preamble.
reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled,
“ An Act to amend the several Acts for the encouragement of Learning,
“ by securing the Copies and Copyright of printed Books to the
5 “ Authors of such Books, or their Assigns,” it was amongst other things
provided and enacted, That from and after the passing of the said Act, the
Author of any Book or Books, composed and not printed or published,
or which should thereafter be composed and be printed and published,
and his assignee or assigns, should have the sole liberty of printing and
10 reprinting such Book or Books for the full term of Twenty-eight years,
to commence from the day of first publishing the same, and also, if the
Author should be living at the end of that period, for the residue of his
natural life : **AND** whereas a practice has of late arisen of taking down
in short-hand Copies of Dramatic Pieces during the representation
15 thereof, and of representing such Pieces at other Theatres or places of
Dramatic Entertainment than that to which the Author of the Piece
has first sold the right of representation, to the great injury of the Author
and of the Proprietors of such first Theatre :

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

78.

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Spiritual

The Author of any Dramatic Writing to have the sole liberty of representing or causing the same to be represented for a certain time.

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 Author of any Tragedy, Comedy, Play, Opera, Farce, or any other Dramatic Piece or Entertainment, composed and not printed and published by the author thereof, or his assignee, or which hereafter shall be composed and not printed or published by the author thereof, or his assignee, or the assignee of such author, shall have, as his own property, the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented, at any place or places of Dramatic Entertainment whatsoever, in any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Isles of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, or in any part of the British dominions, any such production as aforesaid, not printed and published by the author thereof, or his assignee, and shall be deemed and taken to be the proprietor thereof; and that from and after the *passing of this Act*, the author of any such production which shall hereafter be so printed and published, or the assignee of such author, shall, from the time of such publication until the end of *Twenty-eight* years from the day of such first publication of the same, and also if the author or authors, or the survivor of the authors, shall be living at the end of that period, during the residue of his natural life, have as his own property the sole liberty of representing or causing to be represented the same, at any such place of Dramatic Entertainment as aforesaid, and shall be deemed and taken to be the proprietor thereof.

Penalty on persons representing the same without leave of Author.

And be it also Enacted, That if any person shall, during the continuance of such sole liberty as aforesaid, represent or cause to be represented, without the consent in writing of the author or other proprietor thereof first had and obtained, at any place licensed pursuant to Act of Parliament of the twenty-fifth of King George the Second, or place of Dramatic Entertainment whatsoever, within the limits aforesaid, any such production as aforesaid, or any part thereof, whether printed and published or not, every such offender shall forfeit and pay for every such representation the full sum of *Ten pounds*, to be recovered in the manner hereinafter mentioned; and shall, in addition to such penalty, be liable to the payment of damages to the author or other proprietor of such production so represented contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, to be recovered, *together with double costs of suit*, by such author or other proprietor, in any court having jurisdiction in such cases in that part of the said United Kingdom, or of the British dominions, in which the offence shall be committed.

Complaint to be heard by a Justice of the peace.

And be it further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace, residing within the county, division, city, town or place in England or Ireland, or the Sheriff or Stewart or any Justice of the peace for the shire or stewartry in Scotland, within which the offence next hereinafter mentioned shall be committed,

mitted, upon complaint to be made before him of the representation of any such production at any place licensed pursuant to Act of Parliament of the twenty-fifth of King George the Second, or place of Dramatic Entertainment whatsoever, within the limits last aforesaid, to summon
 5 before him the proprietor or proprietors or other the person having the management or superintendance of such place so licensed, or of Dramatic Entertainment, or causing or procuring such representation, and proceed to hear and determine the said complaint in a summary way; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the author or other proprietor
 10 of such production, by writing under his hand, to authorize and appoint any person whomsoever to appear for him at such hearing, the signature of the person giving such authority to be sufficiently proved by an affidavit to be sworn before any Judge of any of the courts at Westminster, or before any one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace, verifying the
 15 same to be the hand-writing of the person signing and giving the same; and affidavits sworn as aforesaid shall be evidence to be received touching the proprietorship of such production; and if upon the hearing of such complaint the person so complained against shall not produce and shew the consent and license in writing of the author or other
 20 proprietor for the representation of such production, it shall be lawful for the said Justice, Sheriff or Stewart, and he is hereby required to convict such offender, and to order the payment forthwith by him to the author or other proprietor, or to the person so authorized and appointed as aforesaid, of the aforesaid penalty or sum of *Ten pounds* for each
 25 such representation, together with his reasonable costs, to be ascertained by such Justice, Sheriff or Stewart; and in default of payment thereof, the same shall be levied by warrant under the hand and seal of the said Justice of the peace, Sheriff or Stewart, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the said offender, together with the costs of
 30 such distress and sale; and the conviction or judgment of such Justice, Sheriff or Stewart shall not be removeable into any other court, or be quashed or avoided for want of form.

Recovery of penalty and costs.

Provided nevertheless, and be it further Enacted, That all Actions or proceedings for any offence or injury that shall be committed against
 35 this Act, shall be brought sued and commenced within *Twelve* calendar months next after such offence committed, or else the same shall be void and of no effect.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further Enacted, That wherever authors, persons, offenders or others, are spoken of in this Act in the singular number or in the
 40 masculine gender, the same shall extend to any number of persons and to either sex.

Meaning of the word Author.

And be it Enacted, That a Conviction for any such penalty as aforesaid shall be sufficient if the same be in the form marked (A.) given in
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Form of Conviction.

the Schedule annexed to this Act, or to the like effect; and that a Warrant of Distress shall be sufficient in the form marked (B.) in the said Schedule, or to the like effect; and a Warrant of Committal in default of such distress shall be sufficient in the form or to the effect given in the said Schedule and marked (C.), making in such forms such alterations as may be requisite to adapt them to particular cases. 5

Schedule to which this Act refers.

(A.)

County of } BE it Remembered, That on the
 to Wit. } day of in the year A. B. of
 is convicted before one of His
 Majesty's Justices of the peace for [or, as the case may be] of having on
 the [here state the day or days on which the unlawful representation
 took place] at represented or caused to be represented a
 Dramatic Entertainment, called without such consent or
 license as is required by an Act of the of King GEORGE
 the Fourth, intituled, [insert the Title of this Act] and adjudged to forfeit
 and pay for his said offence the sum of being the sum
 of *Ten pounds* for each such representation, together with the sum
 of being the costs of this proceeding. Given under
 my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

C. D. (L. s.)

(B.)

To E. F.

WHEREAS hath been on the day of
 in the year convicted before me
 one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace for [or, as the
 case may be] of a certain offence [or, of certain offences.] against an Act
 made in the year of King GEORGE the Fourth, intituled,
 [insert the Title of this Act] and adjudged to pay the sum of
 together with the sum of for costs, amounting together
 to the sum of Now these are to require you to levy,
 by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the said
 the said sum of together with the reasonable costs of such
 distress and sale, and to pay over the amount thereof to
 [here insert the name of the party injured or of the person authorized by
 him

314

him to proceed on his behalf] rendering the excess (if any) of the pro-
duce of such sale to the said
hand and seal this day of Given under my
in the year

C. D. (L. s.)

(C.)

County of } TO
to Wit. } Correction] at the Keeper of the Gaol [or House of
or his deputy.

WHEREAS hath been convicted before me
one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace for
[or, as the case may be] of an offence [or, of certain offences] against an
Act of the year of King GEORGE the Fourth, intituled,
[insert the Title of this Act] and adjudged to pay the sum of
for the penalty [or, penalties] and costs: AND whereas the whole of
the said sum of [or parcel of the said sum] is
unpaid and cannot be levied by distress; These are to command you
the said forthwith to convey the said
to the said Gaol [or, House of Correction] and you the said Keeper
and Deputy to detain and safely keep the said therein
until the end of *Three* calendar months from the date hereof, or until
the payment of the last-mentioned sum of money. Given under my
hand and seal this day of in the year

C. D. (L. s.)

11 GEO. IV.—Sess. 1830.

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B I L L

To alter and extend the provisions of the
54th George Third, cap. 156, with respect
to Dramatic Writings.

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24 February 1830.*
