

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 144



1571

ACT OF PARLIAMENT
AN ACT FOR THE BRINGING OF
THE RIVER LEA TO THE NORTH
SIDE OF THE CITY OF LONDON

WASC 144

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Riverlee 1571

WASC 144

To. Abbey

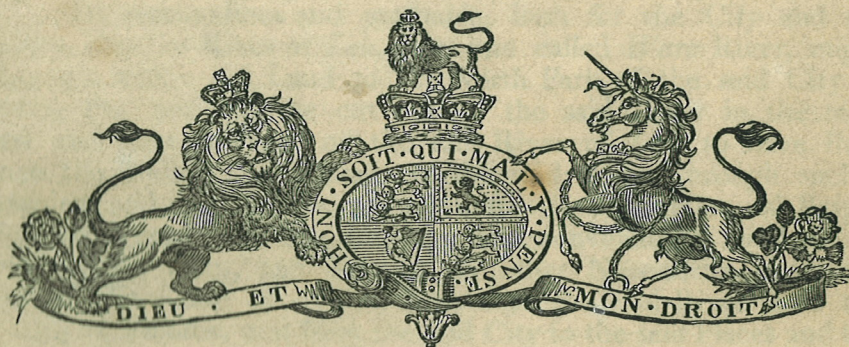
ANNO REGNI
ELIZABETHÆ
REGINÆ

Angliæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

DECIMO TERTIO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster* the
Second Day of *April*, in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign
of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady *Elizabeth*, by the
Grace of God, of *England, France, and Ireland* Queen,
Defender of the Faith, &c.

And thence continued, until the Dissolution of the same, to the
high Pleasure of Almighty God, and Weal Publick of this Realm.



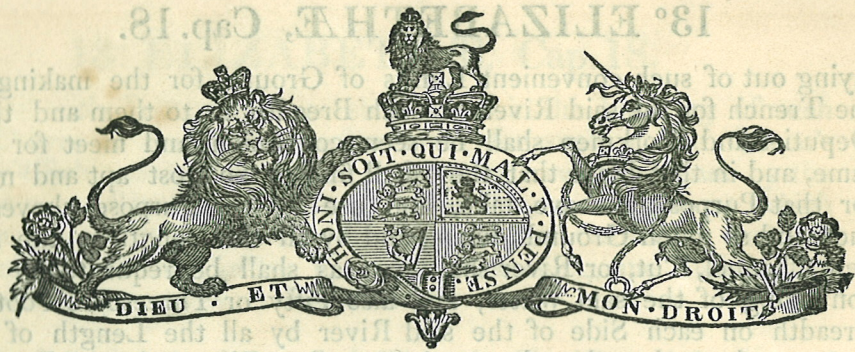
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1850.

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ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

ELIZABETHÆ REGINÆ.

C A P. XVIII.

An Act for the bringing of the River of *Lee* to the North Side of the City of *London*.

FORASMUCH as it is perceived by many grave and wise Men, as well of the City of *London* as of the Country, that it were very commodious and profitable, both for the City and the Country, that the River of *Lee*, otherwise called *Ware* River, might be brought within the Land to the North Part of the said City of *London*, the same to be cut out of the said River in the most aptest and meetest Place of the said River of *Lee*, to have from thence the leading and Passage of the said Water through such a convenient and meet Cut as may serve for the Navigation of Barges and other Vessels, for the Carriage and conveying as well of all Merchandizes, Corn, and Victuals as other Necessaries, from the Town of *Ware* and all other Places near the said River unto the said City of *London*, and from the said City to the said Places and the Town of *Ware*, and also for the Tiltboats and Wherries for conveying of the Queen's Subjects to and fro, to their great Ease and Commodity: In consideration of the Premises, and of divers sundry commodious, profitable, and beneficial Causes which are like to insue to the Body of this Commonwealth, and so incidentally to many particular Persons, be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, with the Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That it shall be lawful to the Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of *London*, and their Successors, at any Time or Times hereafter to begin and continue the

Lord Mayor, &c. of London to make a new Cut out

of the River
Lee.

laying out of such convenient Limits of Ground for the making of the Trench for the said River, at such Breadth as to them and their Deputies and Workmen shall be seen convenient and meet for the same, and in that Place that they shall find to be most apt and meet for that Purpose to have, take, and use for the Purpose abovesaid such and so much Ground during and by all the Length as the said new Channel, Cut, or River shall pass as shall be requisite for the conveying of the said Water, and also Fifty or Threescore Foot in Breadth on each Side of the said River by all the Length of the same, so alway that they do not in any One Place take in Breadth both in Channel and in Ground on both the Sides of the Water above the Breadth of Eight Score Foot in all, which convenient Breadth of Ground on both Sides is thought needful to be had, for that Ground and Soil of Necessity must be occupied on both Sides of the said River, as well for the laying of the Earth that shall be cast out of the said Trench, to serve in the lower Grounds, and especially near the said River to make substantial Banks for the Preservation and keeping of the Country from Inundations when the Floods shall arise, as also for Way to pass with Trunks and Carts which must carry away the Gravel and other Earth in very great Quantity from the Hills, whereas the Cut must be very deep, to such Places as shall be convenient, to help to make up the said Banks, and otherwise to bestow the same, and also for that when it shall please God that the same shall be brought to pass and full Effect, that the whole Ground on both Sides of the said River may lie in one Level from the said City of *London* to that Place where the said River or Trench shall have his Beginning out of the main River of *Lee*, and to the end also that in all Places within that Limit and Distance all People may with great Ease and Commodity go in and out of their Tiltboats and other Vessels whatsoever without Peril, and so walk by Foot as long as it shall please them, and also that the Bargemen may upon the same Ground, without offending any other, draw their Vessels from Place to Place amongst the same, as of like they shall be driven to do against the Stream, being loden.

Lord Mayor,
&c. to agree
with Owners
for Ground
required.

II. And be it enacted, That the said Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens, and their Successors for ever, shall have the said Ground amongst all the said whole Length for such Composition as they shall make with the Lords, Owners, and Occupiers of the Soil and Ground.

Reparations
in new Cut to
be made at
Expense of
Mayor, &c.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That if in the new Cut there happen any Breaches, Inundations, or Hurts, the Mayor and Citizens of *London* shall stop the Breaches at their own Charges, and so maintain them from Time to Time.

Conservancy
vested in
Lord Mayor,
&c.

IV. And be it also enacted, That the said Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens shall have the whole Jurisdiction, Conservice, Rule, and Government, as well of the said new cut River, and Ground of each Side, as also the Royalty of the Fish and Fishing of the same, and Profits of the said Ground, Soil, and Water, to them and their Successors for ever, and also shall have Authority to punish

as

as well all such Transgressors as shall offend in the breaking of such good Orders as shall be hereafter made for such of the Queen's Majesty's Subjects as shall have Occasion to travel and pass by the same new cut River, as also every other Person and Persons which shall break such good and wholesome Rules and Orders as shall be provided and ordained for the Preservation, keeping, and maintaining of the said River and every Part thereof.

V. And further be it enacted, That the Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace, and such other as it shall please the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to put in Commission for the same, as well of *Middlesex*, *Essex*, as of *Hertfordshire*, or the more of them, by their Discretions, shall, at the Costs and Charges of the Country, after that the said new Cut shall be made and finished, cause the same from such Place whereas the said new Cut shall begin unto the Town of *Ware*, amongst the said River, to be sufficiently cleansed of all the Shelfes and Shallows, and to bring the same to a convenient Depth in all Places for the Passage of Barges, Tiltboats, and other Vessels in as good and convenient Depth all the Way of the same as shall be made and continued in the aforesaid new River by the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the said City of *London*, and so to continue the same from Time to Time, upon the Pains thereof to be limited and levied by the Discretions of the said Commissioners or the more Part of them; and also that all other Buildings and Obstacles standing in or upon the said River which may be found Impeachments or Lets to this good Work may be removed and taken away, to the end that this may be a good and perfect Work, and by the Grace of God to such good Effect and Commodity as is hoped and looked for.

After new Cut made and finished, the same to be kept in repair by Commissioners to be appointed.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That this Act shall not extend to take away any Building, Lock, or Obstacle which by the said Commissioners or the more Part of them shall be thought not to hinder the Passage of Boats or Vessels by and through the said River.

Act not to extend to remove any Building, &c. unless same interfere with Navigation of the River.

VII. And be it further enacted, That the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of *London* shall make and maintain, at their Costs and Charges, such sufficient Hedges and Fences as shall be requisite between the Grounds so by them to be taken to the Use abovesaid and the Grounds of other Owners, and also convenient Bridges and Ways for the Passage of the Queen's Subjects and their Carriages.

Hedges, Fences, &c. to be made.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *England* for the Time being shall and may, by his Discretion, and at the Request of the said Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens for the Time being, appoint and authorize, by Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, Sixteen Commissioners, whereof Four to be of the said City of *London*, and the other Twelve to be of the Counties adjoining to the said River of *Lee*, viz., Four of every of the Shires of *Essex*, *Middlesex*, and *Hertfordshire*, and every of the said Twelve having Lands, Tenements, or

Appointment of Commissioners.

13° ELIZABETHÆ, Cap. 18.

Hereditaments of the clear yearly Value of Forty Marks in the same Shires or some of them, and not being Citizens of *London* using the Trade of Merchandize, which Sixteen Commissioners or the more Number of them shall have full Power and lawful Authority to treat, agree, and compound with such Numbers of the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the said Counties as to their Discretions shall seem meet and convenient for the scouring, cleansing, repairing, and keeping of the said River of *Lee* from such Place whereas the said new River or Cut shall have the Beginning unto the said Town of *Ware* in such Sort as the same may be navigable for Boats, Barges, and other Vessels.

Works not to be executed till Commission returned into Chancery.

IX. And further be it enacted, That until or before such Order or Means be devised and agreed upon by the said Commissioners, and the said Commission returned into the High Court of Chancery, it shall not be lawful to the said Lord Mayor, Citizens, and Commonalty to put the said digging, trenching, or new cutting of the said River in execution, nor to cut or take in any Ground by force of this Statute, anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

As to the taking of Lands.

X. And be it further enacted, That the Mayors, Citizens, and Commonalty of *London* shall not by virtue of this Act take any Man's Ground until they have compounded with the Owners of the same Ground, and shall within Ten Years next after the End of the Session of this Parliament cut and finish the same.

Free Passage through River preserved.

XI. Provided alway, and be it enacted, That all the Queen's Subjects, their Boats and Vessels, shall have free Passage through the said River, as well the new Cut as the old River, without Interruption or Molestation by reason of or for his or their Passage as in other common Rivers and Waters they lawfully may do: Provided alway, that this Law shall not extend to make the said River to be cleansed otherwise than any Persons be or shall be compellable by the Law or by the Statute of Sewers to cleanse the same.

As to Cases of Refusal to compound for Ground to be taken for Works.

XII. Provided also, and be it enacted, That if any Person shall refuse to be reasonably compounded with for Ground to be taken in for the said new Cut and Banks, then the said Sixteen Commissioners or the more Part of them shall appoint and determine the Composition and Bargain between both the Parties, and the Satisfaction for such Ground, and all Ways, Bridges, and other Things to the same pertaining.

Compensation to Owners of Mills.

XIII. Provided alway, and be it further enacted, That if the said new Cut shall be the Mean and Occasion that any Mills beneath or above the Beginning of the said new Cut shall be by virtue of this Act destroyed, or the Profit thereof decayed by Want of Water, then the said Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of *London* shall yield and pay to the Owners of such Mills so decayed, and to such Persons as shall have any Detriment or Loss by such Decay, such reasonable Recompence in Money or yearly Rent or otherwise as the said Sixteen Commissioners, or other Sixteen Commissioners

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missioners in like Form to be chosen and authorized, or any Twelve of them, shall determine and appoint, and that such Owners, their Heirs and Assigns, shall have such reasonable Remedy by Action of Debt or Distress, or otherwise, to recover, have, and obtain the said Recompence, as the Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *England* for the Time being, together with the said Sixteen Commissioners or with any Twelve of them, shall appoint, anything in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

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