

For preventing the
invention of a new printing
sedition & dangerous and unlawful
books and pamphlets And for the
regulation of printing and printing
houses

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Whereas

of printers and printing press is matter of publique trade and of great contentment especially considering that by the generall licentiousness of the late times many evil and disordered persons have beene encouraged to print and sell hereticall, schismaticall, blasphemous, seditious, & treasonable books, pamphlets and papers, and still doe continue such their unlawful and exorbitant practise to the high dishonour of Almighty God, the endangering the peace of these Kingdomes, and raising a dissension to his most Excellent Majestie, and his government for sedition whereof his said Majesty is advised then for reducing and limiting the number of printing presses, and by ordering and setting the said Act or Mistray of printing by Act of Parliament in manner herein after is expressed The Kings most Excellent Majestie by and with the consent and advice of the Lords spirituall and Temporall and Commons in this present Parliament assembled hath therefore ordained and enacted, and by it ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person, or persons, or whatsoever shall presume to print or cause to be printed either within this Realme of England, or any other his Majesties Dominions or in the parts or beyond the seas any hereticall, seditious, schismaticall, or offensive books, or pamphlets wherein any doctrine or opinion shall be asserted or maintained which is contrary to the Christian faith, or the doctrine or discipline of the Church of England, or which shall or may tend, or be to the scandal of religion, or the Church, or the government, or governance of the Church, state, or Commonwealth, or of any corporation, or person, or persons whatsoever nor shall any person publish, sell, or distribute any such books, or books, or pamphlets, nor shall cause, or procure any such to be published, or put to sale, or to be bound, stitched, or sewed together, and soe it further ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person, or persons whatsoever shall at any time hereafter print or cause to be printed any books, or pamphlets whatsoever unless the same books and pamphlets together with all, and every the titles, epistles, prefaces, prologues, prologues, preambles, introductiones, tables, dedicationes, and other matters, and things therunto annexed be first entered in the books of the Register of the Company of Stationers of London, and unless the same books and pamphlets, and alsoe and every the said titles, epistles, prefaces, prologues, prologues, introductiones, tables, dedicationes, and other matters, and things whatsoever therunto annexed, or therewith to be imprinted shall be first lawfully licensed, & authorized, to be printed by such person, and persons only as shall be constituted, and appointed to license the same, according to the direction, and true meaning of this present Act herein after expressed, and by no other, (that is to say) that all books, concerning the common lawes of this Realme shall be printed by the special allowance of the Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the great Seale of England for the time being, the Lords thereof assigned, and Lord Chief Justice for the time being, or one or more of them, or by their, or one, or more of their appointments, and that all books of

history concerning the state of this Realme, or other books concerning any affaires of state shall be licensed, by the principall secretaries of state for the time being, or one of them, or by their, or one of their appointments, and that all books to be imprinted concerning Heraldry, titles of honour, and arms, or otherwise concerning the office of Earle Marshall shall be licensed by the Earle Marshall for the time being, or by his appointment, or in case thereof shall not then be an Earle Marshall shall be licensed by the three Kings of Arms, Barons of Exchequer, and Clerke, or any two of them, whereof Barons principall King of Arms to be one, and that all other books to be imprinted, or reprinted whether of Divinity, Philosophy, or whatsoever other science, or art shall be first licensed and allowed by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Bishop of London for the time being, or one of them, or by their, or one of their appointments, or by either one of the Chancellors, or Vicechancellors of either of the Universities of this Realme for the time being, provided always that the said Chancellors or Vicechancellors of either of the said Universities shall only license such books as are to be imprinted or reprinted within the limits of the said Universities respectively, but not in London, or elsewhere, not meddling either with books of the common lawes, or matters of state, or government, nor any books, or books the right of printing whereof doth solely, and properly belong to any person, or persons without his, or their consent first obtained.

45. ϕ Except Acts of Parliament, Proclamations, and such other books and papers as shall be appointed to be printed by virtue of any warrant under the Kings Majesties Signe or Manell or under the hands of one or both of his Majesties principall Secretaries of State.

and Henry, or any two of them, wherof Carder pryncipall
king of clermes to be on, and that all other booke to be
for imprinted, or reprinted whether of Divinity, Philosophy, or
philosophy, or whatsoever other science or art shall be
first licensed and allowed by the Lord Archbishop of
Canterbury, and Lord Bishop of London for the time
being, or one of them, or by their or one of their appointments,
or by either one of the Chancellors or Vicechancellors of
either of the Universities of this Realme for the time being,
Provided always that the said Chancellor or Vicechancellor
of either of the said Universities shall only license such
bookes as are to be imprinted, or reprinted within the
limites of the said Universities respectively, but not in
London or elsewhere, not meddling either with booke of
the common lawes, or matters of State, or government,
nor any booke or booke the right of printing wherof
both solely and properly belong to any particular person
or persons without his or their consent first obtained
in that behalfe. And bee it enacted by the authority
aforesaid That every person, and persons who by vertue
of this present Act are, or shall be appointed or
authorized to license the imprinting of booke, or reprinting
thereof with any additions or amendments as aforesaid
shall have one written copy of the same booke or booke
which shall be for licensed to be imprinted, or reprinted
with the titles, epistles, prologues, tables,
dedications, and all other things whatsoever therunto
annexed, which said copy shall be delivered by such
director, or directors to the Printer or Printers for the
imprinting thereof, and shall be safely and intirely
returned by such Printer or Printers after the imprinting
thereof unto such director, or directors to be kept in
the publique Registryes of the said Lord Archbishop or
Lord Bishop of London respectively or in the office of
the Chancellor or Vicechancellor of either the said
Universities or with the said Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper
of the great Seale for the time being or Lord Justice or
Justices or one of them, or one of them, or the said
pryncipall secretaries of State, or with the Earle Marshall, or the
said King of clermes or one of them of all such booke as
shall be licensed by them respectively. And the end such
license may bee returned that the copy so licensed
shall not be altered without his or their privity: And upon
the said copy licensed to be imprinted he or they who
shall so license the same shall testifie under his or their
hand, or hands that there is not any thing in the same contrary
that is contrary to Christian faith, or the doctrine or discipline
of the Church of England, or against the State or government
of this Realme, or contrary to any good life, or good manners
or otherwise as the Nature, and subject of the worde
shall require, which license, or approbation shall be
printed in the beginning of the same booke with the name
or names of him, or them that shall authorize, or license
the same for a testimony of the allowance thereof: And to

it further enacted by the authority aforesaid That every
Merchant of booke and person and persons whatsoever
who doth, or hereafter import, or bring any booke or
bookes into this Realme from any parts beyond the
seas shall import the same in the port of London only, and
not elsewhere without the speciall license of the Archbishop
of Canterbury, and Bishop of London for the time being
or one of them who are hereby authorized to grant or
license for that purpose, and shall before such time
as the same booke or booke or any of them be delivered
forth, or out of his, or their hand or hands, or exported to
sale, give and present a true note, or catalogue in
writing of all, and every such booke and booke unto
the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Bishop of
London for the time being, or to one of them, And no
Merchant, or other person, or persons whatsoever
which shall import, or bring any booke, or booke
into the port of London aforesaid from any parts
beyond the seas shall presume to open any dry
falls, Stales, Harbours, ellavunds, or other fardens of
booke, or wherein booke are, nor shall any Searcher
Warder, or other officer belonging to the Customs
doubt upon paine of losing his, or their place, or
places suffer the same to passe, or to be delivered
out of his, or their hands, or custody before such
time as the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and the
Lord Bishop of London for the time being, or one
of them shall have appointed some smole, or
learned man with one, or more of the said Company
of Stationers and such others as they shall call to
their assistance to be present at the opening thereof
and to view the same, And if there shall happen to
be found any hereticall, seditious, scandalous, or
seditious or other dangerous, or offensive booke
or booke, or any parts of such booke or booke printed
in English, they shall forthwith be brought to the said
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Bishop of
London for the time being, or to one of them, or to
some publique place to be assigned and chosen by
the said Lord Archbishop and Lord Bishop for the
time being, And the person and persons which
importeth, or causeth the said offensive booke to be
imported may be proceeded against as an offender
against this present Act, And also that such further
course may be taken concerning the same offensive
booke or booke as by the said Lord Archbishop
and Bishop for the time being shall be thought
fitting for the suppressing thereof, And bee it further
enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person
or persons shall within this Kingdom, or elsewhere
or cause to be imprinted, nor shall import, or bring in,
or cause to be imported or brought into this Kingdom
from or out of any other his Majesties Dominions, nor

time being. Do the end no person, and persons which
importeth, or causeth the said offensive books, to be
imported, may be proceeded against as an offender
against this present Act, and also that such further
course may be taken concerning the same offensive
books or books as by the said Lord Archbishop
and Bishop for the time being shall be thought fit
fitting for the suppressing thereof, and also that further
enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person or
persons shall within this Kingdom or elsewhere imprint
or cause to be imprinted, nor shall import, or bring in,
or cause to be imported or brought into this Kingdom
from or out of any other his Majesty's dominions nor
from any other parts beyond the seas any copy, or
copies, books or books, or parts of any books, or
books or forms of blanks bills or indentures for
any his Majesty's islands printed beyond the seas
or elsewhere, within any person or persons by force, or
virtue of any Letters Patents granted, or assigned
or which shall hereafter be granted or assigned to
him, or them or (where the same are not granted by
any Letters Patents) by force, or virtue of any Entri-

- 4 or entered thereof duly made or to be made in the Register books of
the said Company of Stationers or in the Register books of
either of the Universities respectively have or shall have in
the right, privilege, authority, or allowance solely to
print without the consent of the Owner, or Owners of such
books or books, copy or copied forms or forms of such
blanks bills, nor shall bind, stitch, or put to sale any such
books or books, or parts of any such books or books
forms or forms without the like consent upon pain
of loss and forfeiture of the same, and of being
proceeded against as an offender against this present
Act, and upon the further penalty and forfeiture of six
shillings eight pence, for every such book or books or
parts of such books or books, copy or copied, or
forms or forms, of any such blanks bills, or indentures
so imprinted, or imported, bound, stitched, or put to
sale. The moiety of which said forfeiture, and forfeitures
shall be to the use of our Sovereign Lord the King his
heirs and Successors and the other moiety to the use
of the Owner, or Owners, Proprietor or Proprietors of such copy
or copied books or books or forms of such blanks bills, or
indentures, if he or they shall sue for the same within
six Months next after such imprinting, importing, or
binding, stitching, or putting to sale, and in default
of such suit by the Owner, or Owners, Proprietor or
Proprietors, commenced within the said six
Months, then the same moiety shall be to the use
and behoof of such other person or persons as
within the space of one year next after the said
offence committed shall sue for the same. Do
recovered by action of Debt, bill, plaint or information
in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record held at Westminster
called the King's Bench, Common Pleas or Exchequer
wherein no Eschequer, Wager of Law, or protection
shall be allowed to the Defendant, or Defendants, and
it further enacted, and declared that every person
and persons that shall hereafter print or cause to be
printed any books, ballads, chart, Protraiture, or any
other thing, or things whatsoever shall therunto, or
therunto print and set his or their own name, or names,
and also shall declare the name of the Author
thereof if he be therunto required by the Licensor
under whose approbation the licensing of the said
books, ballads, chart, or protraiture shall be
authorized, and by and for whom any such book, or
or other thing is, or shall be printed, upon pain
of forfeiture of all such books, ballads, charts, protraitures
and other thing, or things printed contrary to the
statutes heretofore, and the Statutes, and other
Instruments for printing wherewith such books, ballads
protraiture, or other thing, or things shall be
imprinted or set, or prepared for the printing
thereof to be forfeited, and made unrevivable, and
that no person or persons shall hereafter
print, or cause to be imprinted, nor shall forge

- 5 put or counterfeit in, or upon any book, or pamphlet the
name, title, mark, or device of any other person, or persons
which hath, or shall have lawful privilege, authority, or
allowance of sole printing the same without the
consent of the person, and persons so privileged first
had, and obtained, upon pain that every person, and
persons so offending shall forfeit and lose all such
books, and pamphlets upon which such counterfeit
name, or mark shall be imprinted, and shall further
be proceeded against as an offender against this
present Act, and also be it further enacted by the
authority aforesaid that no Stationer, or small
wares, Grocer, Chaudler, or other
person or persons whatsoever not being licensed in
that behalf by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese
wherein such books or books shall be having
being seven years apprentice to the trade of
Bookseller, Printer, or Bookbinder nor being a
Freeman of the City of London by Matrimonial
right as house of a Bookseller, printer, or
Bookbinder, nor being a Member of the
Company of Stationers shall within the City, or
Suburbs of London, or any other Market Town, or
elsewhere vend, or buy, or barter, sell, or
change, or do away any Bibles, Testaments, Psalms
books, Common Prayer books, Primers, Catechisms
licensed Almanacks, Grammar books, or other
books or

nomine to and against such other full person or persons to suffer
and supply the place of such Master printer or Founder of Lettere as
shall bee void by death forfeiture or otherwise as aforesaid And
every person and persons which shall hereafter bee allowed or
permitted to have the use of a printing presse or printing house
upon or before such his allowance obteyned shall be bound with
curatell to his Majesty in the Court of Kings Bench or before some
one or more of the Justices of Assize or the Justices of the peace all
their severall Quarters sometime in the name of three hundred pound
not to print or suffer to be printed in his house or presse any
bookes or bookes whatsoever but such as shall come thence to him
bee lawfully licensed. And bee it further Enacted by the authority
aforesaid That none of the said or next Master printers to bee
allowed from tyme to tyme as aforesaid shall keep above two
printing presses at one tyme unless hee hath been Master or Warden
warden of the Company who are hereby allowed to keep three
presses and use more unless for some great and special occasion
for the publique use or they have for a tyme leas'd of the said Court
Arch Bishoppe of Cantuarburg or Lord Bishoppe of London for the tyme
being to have or use one or more about the aforesaid number as
their Lordshippe or either of them shall thinke fitt. And bee it also
Enacted by the authority aforesaid that no printer or printers
(except the Kings printers) nor Founder or Founders of Lettere for printing
shall take or receive any more or greater number of charyntises
then it heren after limited and appoynted (that is to say) every
Master printer and Master founder of Lettere for printing that is
or hath been Master or Warden of his Company may have
three charyntises all one tyme and use more. And every Master
printer and Master founder of Lettere for printing that is of the
livery of his Company may have two charyntises at one tyme and
use more. And every Master printer and Master founder of Lettere
for printing of the yeomanry of his Company may have one
charyntise at one tyme and use more whether by taxatureship
binding at the strivord, nor any other way whatsoever. Neither
shall it be lawfull for any Master printer or Master founder of Lettere
when any charyntise or charyntises shall wold or bee put away to
take another charyntise or other charyntises in his or their place
or place unless the name or name of him or them soe gone away
bee rased out of the said booke and never admitted againe. And
because a greates parte of the corvet printing in London hath
been caused for want of orderly payement for journeyman printers
The said severall Master printers and Master founders of Lettere for
printing, soe to bee allowed as aforesaid are hereby required to take
speciall care that all journeyman printers and journeyman founders
of Lettere for printing who are lawfully freed of the said respective
Mistries bee set to worke and employed in their respective trades
and if any such journeyman printer or journeyman founder of
Lettere being of honest and good behaviour and able in his trade
doe want employment hee shall repaire to any of the said Master
printers or Master founders of Lettere respectively for the tyme
being who thereupon shall receive him or them into worke.

8 If any Master printer or Master founder of Lettere have not
a journeyman already although such Master printer or Master
founder of Lettere respectively with his charyntise or charyntises
bee able without the help of the said journeyman to discharge his
owne worke upon paine that every Master printer and Master founder
of Lettere respectively refusing to receive such journeyman repaireing
to him as aforesaid shall forfeite five pound to bee recovered by
bill plaint or information in any Court of Record wherem hee
resideth, Wager at law, quittance or prodition shall bee admitted
the moiety of which forfeiture shall goe to the Kings Majesty his
heires and assigns and the other moiety to the informer who
shall sue for the same within six monthes next after the said
offence committed. And if any journeyman or journeyman
printer or founder of Lettere for printing shall refuse employment
being offered to him or them by any Master printer or Master
founder of Lettere respectively or neglect it when hee or they have
undertaken it hee or they soe refusing or neglecting shall suffer
the monthes imprisonment at the least without bail or
mainprise upon conviction of such his said refusal or neglect
by two witnesses before any one or more Justices or Justices of
the peace who are hereby empowered to heare and examine
the said offence and to commit the said offender and offenders
to the common gaole or the County wherem hee or they shall bee
apprehended. And no Master printer or Master founder
of Lettere for printing shall from hence forth employ either
to worke at the last or presse or otherwise a boye his printing
any other person or persons then such onely as are freemen
or the sonnes of freemen or apprentices to the said trades or
Mistries of printing or founding of Lettere for printing
respectively. And for the better discovering or preventing in London
without burroughs Bee it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid
That the Master and Wardens of the said Company of Stationers
or any one of them shall have power and authority
with a Constable to take into them such assistants as they
shall thinke needfull and all what tyme they shall thinke fitt
to search all houses and shoppe where they shall come or
upon some probable reason suspect any booke or paper to
bee printed bound or stitched or otherwise printing house
Bookstallers shoppe and Ware house and doore house and
shoppe and to view there what is unprinting binding or
stitching and to examine whether the same bee licensed and
to demand a sight of the said licence and if the said booke
bee unprinting binding or stitching shall not bee licensed then
to seize upon so much thereof as shall bee found unprinted together
with the severall offenders and to bring them before one or
more Justices of the peace who are hereby authorized and
required to commit such offenders to prison there to remaine
whitill they shall bee tryed and punished or rewarded and
punished for the said offence. And in case the said Justices
shall upon their said search finde any booke or booke or parte
of booke unlawfull which they shall suspect to containe matter
therem contrary to the doctrine or discipline of the Church
of England or against the state and government then upon
such suspicion to seize upon such booke or booke or parte
of booke or booke and to bring the same unto the said Justices
Arch Bishoppe of Cantuarburg and Lord Bishoppe of London

32. ^h One or more of the Messengers of his Majesties Chamber by warrant under his
Majesties Signe Manuall, or under the hand of one or both of his Majesties principall
Secretaries of State or

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and printere of booke ffounder and ffounder of lettere for x
printing and all and every other person and person working
in or for the said Trade who shall offend against this present
Act or any Article thereof or thing therein contayned and shall bee
thereof convicted by verdict confession or other wise shall for the
first offence bee disabled from exercising his respective Trade
for the space of three yeares and for the second offence shall
for ever thereafter bee disabled to use or exercise the Art or
Mystery of printing or of ffounder of lettere for printing and
shall also have and receive such further punishment by
fine Imprisonment or other temporall punishment not
extending to Life or Limbe as by the Justice of the Court of
King's Bench or Justice of Oyer and Terminer or Justice of
Assize in their severall Circuits or Justice of the Peace in
their severall Quarter sessions shall bee thought fitt to bee
inflicted the which said Justice of the Peace in their severall
Quarter sessions shall have full power and Authority to heare
and determine all and every offence and offence that shall
bee committed against this Act or against any branch thereof
upon indictment or information by any person or persons
to bee taken before them in their sessions of Peace respectively
and shall yearly certify into the Court of Exchequer as in
other like cases they are bound to doe the fine by them
imposed for any the offences aforesaid and shall and may
also by virtue hereof award process and execution for the
taking or punishing such offenders as in any other case they
lawfully may doe by any the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme
And bee it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that
every printer shall reserve the printed copyes of every
booke now printed or reprinted by him with addition and
shall before any publique venting of the said booke bring
them to the Master of the Company of Stationers and deliver
them to him to be sent to the Librarians of the two
Universities respectively for the use of the publique libraries
of the said Universities Provided always that nothing in this
Act contayned shall bee construed to extend to the prejudice or
infringing of any the iust rights and priviledges of either the two
Universities of this Realme touching Universities Provided always that
no search shall bee at any tyme made in the house or houses
of any the persons of this Realme but by special Warrant
from the King's Majesty under his Signe Manuall or under the hand
of one or both of his Majesties privy Councill Secretaries of State or for any other
bookes than such as are in printing or shalbe printed after the tenth of June 1662
anything in this Act to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding

Sent Buller aux Communes

At our hute may be amended by printing
for Commons first assembly

3. Provided that this Act shall continue and be in force for two years to commēce from the 10th.
of June 1662. and no longer -

I provided also That neither this Act nor anything therein contained shall extend to restrain the Printing and using of a Printing Press in the City of York so as all Books of Divinity shalbe Printed & first licensed by the Arch Bishoppe of York for the time being or such person or persons whom he shall appoint and all other Books whatsoever shalbe printed to first be licensed by such person respectively to whom the licensing thereof doth or shall appertain by the rules herein before mentioned and so as no Bible be there printed nor any other Book whereof the original copy is or shall be belonging to the Company of Stationers in London or any Member thereof and so as the Arch Bishoppe or ^{Sheriff} Mayor of York for the time being doe & could within the said City wher they are kept by him empowered to doe / all the powers and rules in this Act concerning Searchers for unlicensed books and printing and hereby the said penaltyes in the last cases Any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

1. *Provided* also, that neither this Act, nor any thing therein conteyned, shall extend to
prohibite any Bookseller, who hath served seven years, and is free of the Company of Stationers
London, from importing or bringing into this Realme, any ^{not formerly prohibited} ~~bookes~~ ^{ready bound} ~~ready bound~~ ^{which have been}
printed ten yeares, before the said importation, any thing in this or any other Act to the
contrary notwithstanding *Provided* also, and bee it further enacted by the authority
5 *aforsaid*, that neither this Act, nor any thing therein conteyned, shall bee construed to prohibite
any person or persons, to sell bookes or papers, who have sold bookes or papers, within Westminster
Hall, the Pallace of Westminster, or in any shop or shops, within twenty yards of the great
gate of Westminster Hall *aforsaid*, before the twentieth day of November, one &
thousand six hundred sixty and one, but they and every of them may, sell bookes and
papers, as they have or did, before the said twentieth day of November 1601: ~~as~~
within the said Hall, Pallace, and twenty yards *aforsaid*, but not elsewhere, any
thing in this Act to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding *Provided* also, that
13 neither this Act, nor any thing therein conteyned, shall extend to prejudice, the
just right or priviledges, granted by his Maiesty, or any of his Royall predecessors
to any person or persons, under his Maiesties Great Seale or otherwise, but that such
person or persons may exercise and use such right and priviledges as *aforsaid*,
according to their respective grants, any thing in this Act to the contrary
notwithstanding *Provided* also, that neither this Act, nor any thing therein conteyned
14 shall extend to prohibite John Streater Stationer from printing Bookes and papers,
but that hee may still follow the Act and mystery of printing, as if this Act had
never been made, any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding.