Whereas in the first year of the reign of Your Majesty, and of our late most gracious sovereign lady Queen Mary (of blessed memory), an Act of Parliament was made, entitled, “An Act for declaring the rights and liberties of the subject, and for settling the succession of the crown,” wherein it was (amongst other things) enacted, established, and declared that the crown and regal government of the Kingdoms of England, France, and Ireland, and the dominions thereunto belonging, should be and continue to Your Majesty and the said late Queen, during the joint lives of Your Majesty and the said Queen, and to the survivor: and that after the decease of Your Majesty and of the said Queen, the said Crown and regal government should be and remain to the heirs of the body of the said late Queen; and for default of such issue,
to Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and the heirs of her body; and
for default of such issue to the heirs of the body of Your Majesty. And it was thereby
further enacted, that all and every person and persons that then were, or afterwards
should be reconciled to, or shall hold communion with the see or Church of Rome, or
should profess the popish religion, or marry a papist, should be excluded, and are by
that Act made for ever incapable to inherit, possess, or enjoy the Crown and
government of this realm, and Ireland, and the dominions thereunto belonging, or
any part of the same, or to have, use, or exercise any regal power, authority, or
jurisdiction within the same: and in all and every such case and cases the people of
these realms shall be and are thereby absolved of their allegiance: and that the said
Crown and government shall from time to time descend to and be enjoyed by such
person or persons, being Protestants, as should have inherited and enjoyed the same,
in case the said person or persons, so reconciled, holding communion, professing or
marrying, as aforesaid, were naturally dead.

After the making of which statute, and the settlement therein contained, your
majesty's good subjects, who were restored to the full and free possession and
enjoyment of their religion, rights, and liberties, by the providence of God giving
success to your majesty's just undertakings and unwearied endeavours for that
purpose, had no greater temporal felicity to hope or wish for, that to see a royal
progeny descending from Your Majesty, to whom (under God) they owe their
tranquillity, and whose ancestors have for many years been principal assertors of the
reformed religion and the liberties of Europe, and from our said most gracious
sovereign lady, whose memory will always be precious to the subjects of these
realms: and it having since pleased Almighty God to take away our said sovereign
Lady, and also the most hopeful Prince William, Duke of Gloucester (the only
surviving issue of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark) to the
unspeakable grief and sorrow of Your Majesty and your said good subjects, who
under such losses being sensibly put in mind, that it standeth wholly in the pleasure
of Almighty God to prolong the lives of Your Majesty and of Her Royal Highness, and
to grant to Your Majesty, or to Her Royal Highness, such issue as may be inheritable
to the Crown and regal government aforesaid, by the respective limitations in the
said recited act contained, do constantly implore the divine mercy for those
blessings: and Your Majesty's said subjects having daily experience of your royal care
and concern for the present and future welfare of these Kingdoms, and particularly
recommending from your throne a further provision to be made for the succession of
the Crown in the Protestant line, for the happiness of the nation, and the security
of our religion; and it being absolutely necessary for the safety, peace, and quiet of this
realm, to obviate all doubts and contentions in the same, by reason of any pretended
title to the Crown, and to maintain a certainty in the succession thereof, to which
your subjects may safely have recourse for their protection, in case the limitations in
the said recited act should determine: therefore for a further provision of the
succession of the Crown in the Protestant line, we Your Majesty's most dutiful and
loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present
Parliament assembled, do beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted and declared,
and be it enacted and declared 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 the most excellent Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, daughter of the most excellent Princess Elizabeth, late Queen of Bohemia, daughter of our late sovereign lord King James the First, of happy memory, be and is hereby declared to be the next in succession, in the Protestant line, to the imperial Crown and dignity of the said Realms of England, France, and Ireland, with the dominions and territories thereunto belonging, after His Majesty, and the Princess Anne of Denmark, and in default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively: and that from and after the deceases of His said Majesty, our now sovereign lord, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue of the said Princess Anne, and of His Majesty respectively.

II. Provided always, and be it hereby enacted, That all and every person and persons, who shall or may take or inherit the said Crown, by virtue of the limitation of this present act, and is, are or shall be reconciled to, or shall hold communion with, the See or Church of Rome, or shall profess the popish religion, or shall marry a papist, shall be subject to such incapacities, as in such case or cases are by the said recited act provided, enacted, and established; and that every King and Queen of this Realm, who shall come to and succeed in the imperial Crown of this Kingdom, by virtue of this act, shall have the coronation oath administered to him, her or them, at their respective coronations, according to the act of Parliament made in the first year of the reign of His Majesty, and the said late Queen Mary, intituled, An act for establishing the coronation oath, and shall make, subscribe, and repeat the declaration in the act first above recited mentioned or referred to, in the manner and form thereby prescribed.

III. And whereas it is requisite and necessary that some further provision be made for securing our religion, laws and liberties, from and after the death of His Majesty and the Princess Anne of Denmark, and in default of issue of the body of the said Princess, and of His Majesty respectively; 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 Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same.

That whosoever shall hereafter come to the possession of this Crown, shall join in communion with the Church of England, as by law established.

That in case the Crown and imperial dignity of this Realm shall hereafter come to any person, not being a native of this Kingdom of England, this nation be not obliged to engage in any war for the defence of any dominions or territories which do not belong to the Crown of England, without the consent of Parliament.

That no person who shall hereafter come to the possession of this Crown, shall go out of the dominions of England, Scotland, or Ireland, without the consent of Parliament.¹

That from and after the time that the further limitation by this act shall take effect, all matters and things relating to the well governing of this Kingdom, which are properly cognizable in the Privy Council by the laws and customs of this Realm, shall be translated there, and all resolutions taken thereupon shall be signed by such of the Privy Council as shall advise and consent to the same.²

That after the said limitation shall take effect as aforesaid, no person born out of the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or the dominions thereunto belonging (although he be naturalized or made a denizen, except such as are born of English parents) shall be capable to be of the Privy Council, or a member of either House of Parliament, or to enjoy any office or place of trust, either civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, tenements or hereditaments from the Crown, to himself or to any other or others in trust for him.

That no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the Crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons.³

That after the said limitation shall take effect as aforesaid, judges commissions be made quamdiu se bene gesserint⁴, and their salaries ascertained and established; but upon the address of both Houses of Parliament it may be lawful to remove them.

That no pardon under the Great Seal of England be pleadable to an impeachment by the Commons in Parliament.

IV. And whereas the laws of England are the birth-right of the people thereof, and all the Kings and Queens, who shall ascend the throne of this Realm, ought to administer the government of the same according to the said laws, and all their officers and ministers ought to serve them respectively according to the same: the

¹ Repealed in the first year of George I’s reign (1714).
² Repealed by 4 Anne, c. 8. and 6 Anne, c. 7.
³ Repealed in the fourth year of Anne’s reign (1705).
⁴ “As long as they shall properly perform their duties.”
said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do therefore further humbly pray, That all the laws and statutes of this Realm for securing the established religion, and the rights and liberties of the people thereof, and all other laws and statutes of the same now in force, may be ratified and confirmed, and the same are by His Majesty, by and with the advice of the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, and by authority of the same, ratified and confirmed accordingly.