

Anno Duodecimo
Annæ Reginae.

An Act for Providing a Publick Reward for such Person or Persons as shall Discover the Longitude at Sea.



Whereas it is well known by all that are acquainted with the Art of Navigation, That nothing is so much wanted and desired at Sea, as the Discovery of the Longitude, for the Safety and Quickness of Voyages, the Preservation of Ships and the Lives of Men: And whereas in the Judgment of Able Mathematicians and Navigators, several Methods have already been Discovered, true in Theory, though very Difficult in Practice, [...]

And for a due and sufficient Encouragement to any such Person or Persons as shall Discover a proper Method for finding the said Longitude, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the first Author or Authors, Discoverer or Discoverers of any such Method, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be Entitled to, and have such Reward as herein after is mentioned; That is to say, To a Reward, or Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, if it Determines the said Longitude to One Degree of a great Circle, or Sixty Geographical Miles; to Fifteen thousand Pounds, if it Determines the same to Two Thirds of that Distance; and to Twenty thousand Pounds, if it Determines the same to One half of the same Distance; and that One Moiety or Half-part of such Reward or Sum shall be Due and Paid, when the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, do Agree that any such Method extends to the Security of Ships, within Eighty Geographical Miles of the Shores, which are Places of the greatest Danger, and the other Moiety or Half-part, when a Ship by the Appointment of the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall thereby actually Sail over the Ocean, from Great Britain to any such Port in the West-Indies, as those Commissioners; or the major part of them, shall Choose or Nominate for the Experiment, without Losing their Longitude beyond the Limits before mentioned.