

**PUBLIC ACTS OF PARLIAMENT PASSED IN 1881,
IN THE 44TH YEAR OF HER MAJESTY'S REIGN.**

*** *The figure before each Act denotes the chapter.*

1. An Act to apply the sum of two million five hundred thousand pounds out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1881. Feb. 17.
2. An Act to remove doubts as to the operation and effect of so much of the Burial Laws 1881 as relates to the Births and Deaths Registration Act. Feb. 17.
3. An Act to improve the Administration of Justice in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.
4. An Act for the better Protection of Persons and Property in Ireland. March 2.
5. An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Carrying and Possession of Arms, and for the Preservation of the Public Peace in Ireland.
6. An Act to provide for an Annual Return of Rates, Taxes, and Tolls levied for local purposes in Scotland. March 29.
7. An Act to authorise the Secretary of State for India in Council to sell a piece of land in Charles-street, Westminster, to the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, for the public service.
8. An Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years 1881-2.
9. An Act to provide during twelve months for the discipline and regulation of the Army. April 8.
10. An Act for the transfer of property held for the use and service of the Inland Revenue to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, and for other purposes. June 3.
11. An Act to further amend the law relating to sea fisheries by providing for the protection of clam and other bait beds.
12. An Act to grant certain duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other duties, and to amend the laws relating to Customs and Inland Revenue. Otherwise, the Customs and Inland Revenue Act.
13. An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1868.
14. An Act to enable county authorities in South Wales to take over and contribute to certain bridges, &c.
15. An Act to apply the sum of £6,975,627 out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March, 1882.
16. An Act to appoint additional Commissioners for executing the Acts for granting a land tax and other rates and taxes.
17. An Act to amend the Tramways (Ireland) Acts, 1860, 1861, and 1871.
18. An Act to amend the law with respect to the payment of clerks of petty sessions in Ireland.
19. An Act for further regulating the transmission of newspapers.
20. An Act to amend the laws with respect to the acquisition of land and the execution of instruments for the purposes of the Post Office.
21. An Act for the amendment of the law regarding property of married women in Scotland.
22. An Act to amend the Bankruptcy Acts and Cessio Acts with respect to the discharge of bankrupt debtors in Scotland.
23. An Act to amend the law relating to the official staff of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland.
24. An Act to amend the law respecting the service of process of courts of summary jurisdiction in England and Scotland.
25. An Act to extend for a period not exceeding three years the term fixed for the repayment of loans granted by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.
26. An Act to amend the law relating to the use of gunpowder in certain stratified ironstone mines.
27. An Act to amend the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act, 1855.
28. An Act to make provision for the payment by reduced instalments of loans under the Seed Supply Act (Ireland), 1880; and to amend and explain the Relief Distress (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1880, and the Local Government Board Act, 1872.
29. An Act to further facilitate the building, enlargement, and maintenance of reformatory institutions in Ireland.
30. An Act to provide for the employment of certain officers and clerks by the Commissioners of Customs.
31. An Act to continue certain Turnpike Acts, and to repeal certain other Turnpike Acts, and for other purposes connected therewith.
32. An Act to remit certain loans formerly made out of the Consolidated Fund. Aug. 11.
33. An Act to the Summary Procedure Act, 1864. Aug. 11.
34. An Act to amend the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act, 1877.
35. An Act to amend the law relating to coroners in Ireland.
36. An Act to authorise the establishment of a Court of Appeal for her Majesty's Colony of British Honduras.
37. An Act to consolidate the Alkali Acts, 1863 and 1874, and to make further provision for regulating alkali and certain other works in which noxious or offensive gases are evolved.
38. An Act to grant money for the purpose of loans by the Public Works Loan Commissioners and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and for other purposes relating to loans by same Commissioners.
39. An Act to provide for uniform terms of entry to and removal from houses within burghs in Scotland.
40. An Act to make further provision in regard to the registration of Parliamentary oaths, and for taking the poll in the Universities of Scotland.
41. An Act for the simplifying and improving the practice of conveyancing, and for vesting trustees, mortgages, and various other powers commonly conferred by provisions invested in settlements, mortgages, wills, and other investments, and for amending in various particulars the law of property, and for other purposes. Aug. 22.
42. An Act to suspend for a limited period, on account of corrupt practices, the holding of an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for certain cities and boroughs.
43. An Act to extend the Superannuation Act Amendment Act, 1873, to certain persons admitted into subordinate situations in the departments of the Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works and Buildings.
44. An Act for making better provision respecting the remuneration of solicitors in conveyancing and other non-contentious business.
45. An Act to amend the Pedlars Act, 1871, as regards districts within which a certificate authorises a person to act as a pedlar.
46. An Act to amend the Patriotic Fund Act, 1867, and make further provision respecting certain funds administered by the same Commissioners.

47. An Act to amend the law as regards the presumption of life of persons long absent from Scotland.
48. An Act to further amend the Acts relating to the raising of money by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and for other purposes relating thereto.
49. An Act to further amend the law relating to the occupation and ownership of land in Ireland, and for other purposes relating thereto.
50. An Act to apply the sum £21,695,712 out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1882.
51. An Act to explain the Wild Birds' Protection Act, 1880.
52. An Act for providing funds to defray certain of the expenses of the Royal University of Ireland.
53. An Act for making further provision with respect to the redemption of the annuity created under the East Indian Railway Company Purchase Act, 1879, and for other purposes.
54. An Act to make further provision with respect to the Indian Loan of 1879.
55. An Act to make further provision respecting the National Debt and the investment of moneys in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners on account of Savings' Banks and otherwise.
56. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1882. Aug. 27.
57. An Act to amend the law respecting the regulation of her Majesty's Forces and to amend the Army Discipline.
58. An Act to consolidate the Army Discipline and Regulation Act, 1879, and the subsequent Acts amending the same.
59. An Act for promoting the revision of the statute law by repealing various enactments chiefly relating to civil procedure or matters connected therewith, and for amending in some respects the law relating to civil procedure.
60. An Act to amend the law of newspaper libel, and to provide for the registration of newspaper proprietors.
61. An Act to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday in Wales.
62. An Act to amend the law relating to veterinary surgeons.
63. An Act for providing a superannuation allowance for the auditor of the accounts of the Secretary of State for India in Council and his assistants.
64. An Act to remove certain doubts as to the application of section twenty-four of the Prison Act, 1877, and enactments amending the same to the Central Criminal Court.
65. An Act to facilitate leases of land for the erection thereon of schools and buildings for the promotion of public education in Ireland.
66. An Act to amend the law regulating the close season for fishing for pellen in Ireland.
67. An Act to regulate the hawking of petroleum and other substances of a like nature.
68. An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Acts, and for other purposes.
69. An Act to amend the law with respect to Fugitive Offenders in her Majesty's dominions, and for other purposes connected with the trial of offenders.
70. An Act to continue various expiring laws.
71. An Act to make provision for the future Administration of the Property and the performance of the duties vested in the Commissioners of Church Temporalities in Ireland.
72. An Act to amend certain provisions of the Highways and Locomotives Amendment Act, 1878.

THE PARLIAMENTARY OATH.

The Parliamentary Oath of Allegiance is a mere historical form, and nothing more. The old Oath of Allegiance, which contained an engagement "to be true and faithful to the King and his heirs, and truth and faith to bear of life and limb and terrene honour; and not to know or hear of any ill or damage intended him without defending him therefrom;" and concluded with the words "So help me God and all saints!" has been altered three, if not four times. The Test Act of Charles II.'s reign, which directed all officers, civil and military, under Government to receive the sacrament according to the forms of the Church of England, and to take the oaths against transubstantiation, were repealed in order to grant relief to the Roman Catholic denomination in 1828. A Jews' Oath Bill passed the House of Commons (always to be thrown out in the Lords) in 1831, 1853, and each succeeding year till 1858, when at last, by way of resolution, the House passed an Act enabling the members of this persuasion to take their seats without taking the ordinary oath "on the faith of a Christian;" while, from 1696, when Quakers were first permitted to make an affirmation in lieu of the general oath of allegiance up to 1801, when a similar concession was extended to their scruples in courts of justice. The dogmas of the Society of Friends became generally known about the same time that the hallucination of Thomas Verner and the Fifth-Monarchy men found expression in riots. It was owing to William Edmonstone, the pioneer of Quakerism in Ireland, refusing to swear to the truth of his bills of lading on the arrival of his goods at Carrickfergus, that public attention first began to be directed to the peculiarities of the new sect in Ireland.

In the year 1823 a few Catholic gentlemen, meeting at the house of a mutual friend in the county of Wicklow, sowed the seeds of the Catholic Emancipation, which had so powerful an influence on the cause of Catholic membership was founded on the payment of one penny a month, or one shilling a year. "The pence of the poor," it was said, "emancipated the Poor;" and, by 1824, the weekly subscription amounted to £500. At this interval of time it is difficult to comprehend the sectarian bitterness which divided the two great parties in Ireland in those days. Public men were almost sure to lean to one or other extreme, Orangeism or Popery; and William Lamb is said to have justified his nomination of Sir Anthony Hart to the Great Seal on the grounds that he was "a man without either religion or politics, and, therefore, safe for Ireland." From 1813 to 1828 bills were being continually brought forward to modify the oath which kept Roman Catholics out of Parliament and of almost every place of profit and honour. When it was seen that Wellington and Peel were really in earnest in the matter, the whole political world was thrown into a hubbub. In and out of the House there was no other subject of conversation; rival views and beauties contributed their quota to the common quarrel; and Madame Lieven and Lady Jersey worked as hard as any member of either House to make the Parliamentary machine go their way. The Oath of Abjuration (13 and 14 King William III., chap. 6), which was nothing more nor less than an obligation to abjure all Roman Catholic Pretenders to the Crown.