

STATUTES

Made at WESTMINSTER, Anno Regni GEORGH II. *decimo quinto*
A. D. 1742.

CAP. XXX.

An Act to prevent the Marriage of Lunaticks.

Whereas Persons who have the Misfortune to become Lunaticks, may, by reason of such their Disorder, be liable to be surpris'd into unsuitable Marriages, which may be of pernicious Consequence, and a great Misfortune to their Families: Wherefore, for preventing the same, and the ill Consequence thereof, 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 this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the twenty-fourth Day of *June*, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred and forty-two, in case any Person who now is, or at any Time hereafter shall be found a Lunatick, by any Inquisition taken or to be taken by virtue of a Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain; or any Lunatick or Person under a Phrenzy, whose Person and Estate by virtue of any Act of Parliament, now are, or hereafter shall be committed to the Care and Custody of particular Trustees, shall marry before he or she shall be declared of sane Mind by the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, the Lord Keeper or Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal of Great Britain for the Time being, or such Trustees as aforesaid, or the major Part of them respectively; every such Marriage shall be, and is hereby declared to be null and void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

758 *This Statute is said to have been introduced by Mr. Pulteney to prevent Mr. Newport, the natural son of the Earl of Bradford (to whom he was next in remainder), from marrying, and it is thence sometimes called the Bradford Act; see Com. Dig. Idiot, D. 1. The mischief intended to be remedied by it was the difficulty of proving the precise state of a lunatic's mind at the time of marriage. And therefore the existence of a commission of lunacy against a person is a bar to his con-