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STATUTES

Made at WESTMINSTER, *Anno Regni GULIELMI III. nono
& decimo and A. D. 1698.*

CAP. XV.

An Act for determining Differences by Arbitration.

Whereas it hath been found by Experience, that References made by Rule of Court have contributed much to the ease of the Subject, in the determining of Controversies, because the Parties become thereby obliged to submit to the Award of the Arbitrators, under the Penalty of Imprisonment for their Contempt, in case they refuse Submission: Now for promoting Trade, and rendring the Awards of Arbitrators the more effectual in all Cases, for the final Determination of Controversies, referred to them by Merchants and Traders, or others, concerning matters of Account or Trade, or other Matters: 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 Authority of the same, That from and after the Eleventh Day of *May*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord One thousand six hundred ninety eight, it shall and may be lawful for all Merchants and Traders, and others, desiring to end any Controversy, Suit, or Quarrel, Controversies, Suits, or Quarrels, (for which there is no other Remedy but by personal Action or Suit in Equity) by Arbitration, to agree that their Submission of the Suit to the Award or Umpirage of any Person or Persons should be made a Rule of any of his Majesty's Courts of Record, which the Parties shall choose, and to insert such their Agreement in their Submission, or the Condition of the Bond, or Promise, whereby they oblige themselves respectively to submit to the Award or Umpirage of any Person or Persons, which Agreement being so made and inserted in their Submission or Promise, or Condition of their respective Bonds, shall or may, upon producing an Affidavit thereof, made by the