



# Act of Union (Ireland) 1800

1800 CHAPTER 38 40 Geo 3

An Act for the Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

## Annotations:

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Short title given by [Short Titles Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1951 \(c. 1\)](#)
- C2 References in this Act to Great Britain and Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland or Ireland to be construed as exclusive of Republic of Ireland: S.R. & O. 1923/405 (Rev. X, p. 298: 1923 p. 400), art. 2

### **The parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland have resolved to concur in measures for uniting the two kingdoms:**

Whereas in pursuance of his Majesty's most gracious recommendation to the two houses of parliament in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, to consider of such measures as might best tend to strengthen and consolidate the connexion between the two kingdoms, the two houses of the parliament of Great Britain, and the two houses of the parliament of Ireland have severally agreed and resolved, that in order to promote and secure the essential interests of Great Britain and Ireland, and to consolidate the strength, power, and resources of the British empire, it will be advisable to concur in such measures as may best tend to unite the two kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, into one kingdom, in such manner, and on such terms and conditions, as may be established by the acts of the respective parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland.

### **[<sup>F1</sup>I.] said parliaments have agreed upon following articles:**

And whereas in furtherance of the said resolution, both houses of the said two parliaments respectively have likewise agreed upon certain articles for effectuating and establishing the said purposes in the tenor following:

## Annotations:

### Amendments (Textual)

- F1 S. 1 repealed so far as it relates to parts of arts 4, 6 by [Statute Law Revision \(Ireland\) Act 1879 \(c. 24\)](#)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Act of Union (Ireland) 1800. (See end of Document for details)*

**ARTICLE FIRST.**

**Great Britain and Ireland to be united for ever from 1 Jan. 1801.**

That it be first article of the union of the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, that the said kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland shall, upon the first day of January, which shall be in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and one, and for ever, be united into one kingdom, by the name of “the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,” and that the royal stile and titles appertaining to the imperial crown of the said united kingdom and its dependencies, and also the ensigns, armourial flags and banners thereof, shall be such as his Majesty by his royal proclamation under the great seal of the united kingdom shall be pleased to appoint.

**ARTICLE SECOND.**

**Succession to the crown to continue as at present.**

That it be the second article of union, that the succession to the imperial crown of the said united kingdom, and of the dominions thereunto belonging, shall continue limited and settled in the same manner as the succession to the imperial crown of the said kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland now stands limited and settled, according to the existing laws, and to the terms of union between England and Scotland.

**ARTICLE THIRD.**

**One parliament.**

That it be the third article of union, that the said united kingdom be represented in one and the same parliament, to be stiled “The parliament of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.”

..... F2

<p><b>Annotations:</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Amendments (Textual)</b></p> <p><b>F2</b> Words repealed by <a href="#">Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971 (c. 52), Sch. Pt. I</a></p>
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**ARTICLE FOURTH.**

**The representation act shall be considered as part of the union.**

That such act as shall be passed in the parliament of Ireland previous to the union, “to regulate the mode by which the lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons to serve in the parliament of the united kingdom on the part of Ireland, shall be summoned and returned to the said parliament,” shall be considered as forming part of the treaty of union, and shall be incorporated in the acts of the respective parliaments, by which the said union shall be ratified and established.

..... F3

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**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F3** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1971 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F3** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1971 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

**Irish peers who are not elected to serve as peers, may serve as British commoners, during which time they cannot be elected to serve as peers.**

That any person holding any peerage of Ireland now subsisting, or hereafter to be created, shall not thereby be disqualified from being elected to serve, if he shall so think fit, or from serving, or continuing to serve, if he shall so think fit, for any county, city, or borough . . . <sup>F4</sup>, in the house of commons of the united kingdom . . . <sup>F5</sup>, but that so long as such peer of Ireland shall so continue to be a member of the house of commons, he shall not be entitled to the privilege of peerage . . . <sup>F6</sup>

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F4** Words repealed by [Peerage Act 1963 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)

**F5** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1971 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

**F6** Words repealed by virtue of repeal by [Criminal Justice Act 1948 \(c. 58\)](#), [Sch. 10 Pt. III](#) of s. 1 of this Act so far as it ratifies those words and by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1971 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F4** Words repealed by [Peerage Act 1963 \(c. 48\)](#), [Sch. 2](#)

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**Creation of Irish peers.**

That it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to create peers of Ireland, and to make promotions in the peerage thereof, after the union, provided that no new creation of any such peers shall take place after the union, until three of the peerages of Ireland, which shall have been existing at the time of the union, shall have become extinct, and upon such extinction of three peerages, that it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to create one peer of Ireland, and in like manner, so often as three peerages of Ireland, shall become extinct, it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to create one other peer of the said part of the united kingdom; and if it shall happen that the peers of Ireland, shall by extinction of peerages, or otherwise, be reduced to the number of one hundred, exclusive of all such peers of Ireland, as shall hold any peerage of Great Britain, subsisting at the time of the union, or of the united kingdom created since the union, by which such peers shall be entitled to an hereditary seat in the house of lords of the united kingdom, then and in that case it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to create one peer of Ireland, as often

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as any one of such one hundred peerages shall fail by extinction, or as often as any one peer of Ireland, shall become entitled by descent or creation to an hereditary seat in the house of lords of the united kingdom, it being the true intent and meaning of this article, that at all times after the union, it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to keep up the peerage of Ireland, to the number of one hundred, over and above the number of such of the said peers as shall be entitled by descent or creation to an hereditary seat in the house of lords of the united kingdom.

**In what cases peerages may be deemed extinct.**

That if any peerage shall at any time be in abeyance, such peerage shall be deemed and taken as an existing peerage, and no peerage shall be deemed extinct, unless on default of claimants to the inheritance of such peerage, for the space of one year from the death of the person who shall have been last possessed thereof, and if no claim shall be made to the inheritance of such peerage, in such form and manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the house of lords of the united kingdom, before the expiration of the said period of a year, then and in that case such peerage shall be deemed extinct, provided that nothing herein shall exclude any person from afterwards putting in a claim to the peerage so deemed extinct, and if such claim shall be allowed as valid by the judgment of the house of lords of the united kingdom reported to his Majesty, such peerage shall be considered as revived, and in case any new creation of a peerage of Ireland, shall have taken place in the interval, in consequence of the supposed extinction of such peerage, then no new right of creation shall accrue to his Majesty, his heirs or successors, in consequence of the next extinction which shall take place of any peerage of Ireland.

**How questions touching election of Irish commoners shall be decided.**

That all questions touching the election of members to sit on the part of Ireland in the house of commons of the united kingdom, shall be heard and decided in the same manner as questions touching such elections in Great Britain now are, or at any time hereafter shall by law be heard and decided, subject nevertheless to such particular regulations in respect of Ireland, as from local circumstances the parliament of the united kingdom may from time to time deem expedient.

.....<sup>F7</sup>

<p><b>Annotations:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Amendments (Textual)</b></p> <p><b>F7</b> Words repealed by the Act 21 &amp; 22 Vict. c. 26</p>
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**How the parliament of the united kingdom shall be constituted.**

That when his Majesty, his heirs or successors, shall declare his, her, or their pleasure for holding the first, or any subsequent parliament of the united kingdom, a proclamation shall issue under the great seal of the united kingdom, to cause the . . . <sup>F8</sup> commons, who are to serve in the parliament thereof on the part of Ireland, to be returned in such manner as by any act of this present session of the parliament of Ireland shall be provided, and that the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons of Great Britain shall, together with the . . . commons so returned as aforesaid on the part of Ireland, constitute the two houses of the parliament of the united kingdom.

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**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F8** Words repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1953 (2 & 3 Eliz. 2 c. 5), **Sch. 2** and Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971 (c. 52), **Sch. Pt. I**

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F8** Words repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1953 (2 & 3 Eliz. 2 c. 5), **Sch. 2** and Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971 (c. 52), **Sch. Pt. I**

F9

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F9** Words repealed by virtue of repeal by Statute Law Revision (Ireland) Act 1879 (c. 24) of s. 1 of this Act so far as it relates to those words

**Privileges, rights, ranks, and precedence of lords temporal in the imperial parliament.**

. . . <sup>F10</sup>and that the persons holding any temporal peerages of Ireland, existing at the time of the union, shall, from and after the union, have rank and precedence next, and immediately after all the persons holding peerages of the like orders and degrees in Great Britain subsisting at the time of the union; and that all peerages of Ireland, created after the union, shall have rank and precedence with the peerages of the united kingdom so created, according to the dates of their creations; and that all peerages, both of Great Britain and Ireland, now subsisting, or hereafter to be created, shall in all other respects from the date of the union be considered as peerages of the united kingdom, and that the peers of Ireland shall, as peers of the united kingdom, . . . . . <sup>F11</sup>enjoy all privileges of peers as fully as the peers of Great Britain; the right and privilege of sitting in the house of lords, and the privileges depending thereon, . . . . . only excepted.

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

**F10** Words repealed by virtue of repeal by Criminal Justice Act 1948 (c. 58), **Sch. 10 Pt. III** of s. 1 of this Act so far as it ratifies those words, by Statute Law Revision Act 1953 (2 & 3 Eliz. 2 c. 5), **Sch. 2** and Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1971 (c. 52), **Sch. Pt. I**

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