ANNO PRIMO

GEORGII REGIS.

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An Act for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing the Rioters.

WHEREAS of late many rebellious Riots and Tumults have been in divers Parts of this Kingdom, to the Disturbance of the public Peace, and the endangering of His Majesty's Person and Government, and the same are yet continued and fomented by Persons disaffected to His Majesty, presuming so to do, for that the Punishments provided by the Laws now in being are not adequate to such heinous Offences; and by such Rioters His Majesty and His Administration have been most maliciously and falsely traduced, with an Intent to raise Divisions, and to alienate the Affections of the People from His Majesty: Therefore, for the preventing and suppressing of such Riots and Tumults, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing the Offenders therein, be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Persons to the Number of Twelve or more, being unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, to the Disturbance of the public Peace, at any Time after the last Day of *July* in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifteen, and being required or commanded by any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, or by the Sheriff of the County, or his Under Sheriff, or by the Mayor, Bailiff or Bailiffs, or other Head Officer, or Justice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where such Assembly shall be, by Proclamation to be made in the King's

Twelve or more Persons unlawfully assembled, to the Disturbance of the Peace, and not dispersing within One Hour after being required so

to do, shall be deemed guilty of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Name, in the Form herein-after directed, to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Business, shall, to the Number of Twelve or more, (notwithstanding such Proclamation made,) unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously remain or continue together by the Space of One Hour after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, that then such continuing together to the Number of Twelve or more, after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death as in case of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Order and Form of the Proclamation to be made by the Justice, &c.

II. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Order and Form of the Proclamations that shall be made by the Authority of this Act shall be as hereafter followeth; that is to say, the Justice of the Peace, or other Person authorized by this Act to make the said Proclamation, shall, among the said Rioters, or as near to them as he can safely come, with a loud Voice command, or cause to be commanded, Silence to be while Proclamation is making, and after that, shall openly and with loud Voice make or cause to be made Proclamation in these Words, or like in Effect:

'OUR Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all Persons, 'being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably 'to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Business, upon the 'Pains contained in the Act made in the First Year of King *George*, 'for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies.

'GOD save the King.'

And every such Justice and Justices of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, Bailiff, and other Head Officer aforesaid, within the Limits of their respective Jurisdictions, are hereby authorized, empowered, and required, on Notice or Knowledge of any such unlawful, riotous, and tumultuous Assembly, to resort to the Place where such unlawful, riotous, and tumultuous Assembly shall be, of Persons to the Number of Twelve or more, and there to make or cause to be made Proclamation in manner aforesaid.

If Persons so assembled do not disperse within One Hour, Justices, &c. may seize any of them, in order to their being proceeded against.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if such Persons so unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled, or Twelve or more of them, after Proclamation made in manner aforesaid, shall continue together, and not disperse themselves within One Hour, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for every Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Under Sheriff of the County where such Assembly shall be, and also to and for every High or Petty Constable, and other Peace Officer within such County, and also to and for every Mayor, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Bailiff, and other Head Officer, High or Petty Constable, and other Peace Officer of any City or Town Corporate where such Assembly shall be, and to and for such other Person and Persons as shall be commanded to be assisting unto any such Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Under Sheriff, Mayor, Bailiff, or other Head Officer aforesaid, (who are hereby authorized and empowered to command all His Majesty's Subjects of Age and Ability to be assisting to them therein,) to seize and apprehend, and they are hereby required to seize and apprehend, such Persons so unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously continuing together

together after Proclamation made as aforesaid, and forthwith to carry the Persons so apprehended before One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County or Place where such Persons shall be so apprehended, in order to their being proceeded against for such their Offences according to Law; and that if the Persons so unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled, or any of them, shall happen to be killed, maimed, or hurt in the dispersing, seizing, or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize, or apprehend them, by reason of their resisting the Persons so dispersing, seizing, or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize, or apprehend them, that then every such Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, Bailiff, Head Officer, High or Petty Constable, or other Peace Officer, and all and singular Persons being aiding and assisting to them or any of them, shall be free, discharged, and indemnified, as well against the King's Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, as against all and every other Person and Persons, of, for, or concerning the killing, maiming, or hurting of any such Person or Persons so unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled, that shall happen to be so killed, maimed, or hurt as aforesaid.

Indemnity for Justices, &c. for any Injuries that may be inflicted on the Persons so assembled.

IV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Persons unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, to the Disturbance of the public Peace, shall unlawfully and with Force demolish or pull down, or begin to demolish or pull down, any Church or Chapel, or any Building for Religious Worship, certified and registered according to the Statute made in the First Year of the Reign of the late King *William* and Queen *Mary* intituled *An Act for exempting Their Majesties Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of* England *from the Penalties of certain Laws*, or any Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, or other Outhouse, that then every such demolishing or pulling down, or beginning to demolish or pull down, shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy; and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death as in case of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Demolishing or pulling down Churches, Houses, &c. Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons do or shall, with Force and Arms, wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any Manner wilfully and knowingly lett, hinder, or hurt any Person or Persons that shall begin to proclaim or go to proclaim according to the Proclamation hereby directed to be made, whereby such Proclamation shall not be made, that then every such opposing, obstructing, letting, hindering, or hurting such Person or Persons so beginning or going to make such Proclamation as aforesaid shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy; and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death as in case of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy; and that also every such Person or Persons so being unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled, to the Number of Twelve as aforesaid, or more, to whom Proclamation should or ought to have been made if the same had not been hindered as aforesaid, shall likewise, in case they or any of them, to the Number of Twelve or more, shall continue together and not disperse themselves within One Hour after such Lett or Hindrance so made, having Knowledge of such Lett or Hindrance so made, shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death as in case of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Obstructing Persons making the Proclamation hereby directed, or not dispersing within One Hour after Proclamation has been attempted to be made, Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Recovery of Damages for Property demolished.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if after the said last Day of *July* One thousand seven hundred and fifteen any such Church or Chapel, or any such Building for Religious Worship, or any such Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, or other Outhouse, shall be demolished or pulled down wholly or in part, by any Persons so unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled, that then in case such Church, Chapel, Building for Religious Worship, Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, or Outhouse shall be out of any City or Town that is either a County of itself or is not within any Hundred, that then the Inhabitants of the Hundred in which such Damage shall be done shall be liable to yield Damages to the Person or Persons injured and damnified by such demolishing or pulling down wholly or in part; and such Damages shall and may be recovered by Action to be brought in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, or any Imparlance, shall be allowed, by the Person or Persons damnified thereby, against any Two or more of the Inhabitants of such Hundred; such Action for Damages to any Church or Chapel to be brought in the Name of the Rector, Vicar, or Curate of such Church or Chapel that shall be so damnified, in Trust for applying the Damages to be recovered in rebuilding or repairing such Church or Chapel; and that Judgment being given for the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action, the Damages so to be recovered shall, at the Request of such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, his or their Executors or Administrators, be raised and levied on the Inhabitants of such Hundred, and paid to such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, in such Manner and Form and by such Ways and Means as are provided by the Statute made in the Seven and twentieth Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* for reimbursing the Person or Persons on whom any Money recovered against any Hundred by any Party robbed shall be levied; and in case any such Church, Chapel, Building for Religious Worship, Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, or Outhouse so damnified shall be in any City or Town that is either a County of itself or is not within any Hundred, that then such Damages shall and may be recovered by Action to be brought in manner aforesaid, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, or any Imparlance, shall be allowed, against Two or more Inhabitants of such City or Town; and Judgment being given for the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action, the Damages so to be recovered shall, at the Request of such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, his or their Executors or Administrators, made to the Justices of the Peace of such City or Town, at any Quarter Sessions to be holden for the said City or Town, be raised and levied on the Inhabitants of such City or Town, and paid to such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, in such Manner and Form and by such Ways and Means as are provided by the said Statute made in the Seven and twentieth Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, for reimbursing the Person or Persons on whom any Money recovered against any Hundred by any Party robbed shall be levied.

Act to be read at Sessions.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be openly read at every Quarter Sessions, and at every Leet or Law Day.

Prosecutions to be within 12 Months.

VIII. Provided always, That no Person or Persons shall be prosecuted by virtue of this Act for any Offence or Offences committed contrary to the

the same, unless such Prosecution be commenced within Twelve Months after the Offence committed.

Sheriffs, &c. in Scotland may execute the Powers of this Act.

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Sheriffs and their Deputies, Stewarts and their Deputies, Baillies of Regalities and their Deputies, Magistrates of Royal Burroughs, and all other inferior Judges and Magistrates, and also all High or Petty Constables, or other Peace Officers of any County, Stewartry, City, or Town within that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall have the same Powers and Authority for putting this present Act in execution within *Scotland* as the Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates aforesaid respectively have by virtue of this Act within and for the other Parts of this Kingdom; and that all and every Person and Persons who shall at any Time be convicted of any the Offences afore-mentioned, within that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, shall for every such Offence incur and suffer the Pain of Death and Confiscation of Moveables; and also, that all Prosecutions for repairing the Damages of any Church or Chapel, or any Building for Religious Worship, or any Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, or Outhouse, which shall be demolished or pulled down in whole or in part, within *Scotland*, by any Persons unlawfully, riotously, or tumultuously assembled, shall and may be recovered by summary Action at the Instance of the Party aggrieved, his or her Heirs or Executors, against the County, Stewartry, City, or Burrough respectively where such Disorders shall happen, the Magistrates being summoned in the ordinary Form, and the several Counties and Stewartries called by Edictal Citation at the Market Cross of the Head Burrough of such County or Stewartry respectively, and that in general, without mentioning their Names and Designations.

Punishment of Offenders and Prosecution for Damages there.

Extent of Act.

X. Provided, and it is hereby declared, That this Act shall extend to all Places for Religious Worship in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland* which are tolerated by Law, and where His Majesty King *George*, the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, and their Issue, are prayed for in express Words.

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