ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SEXTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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C A P. CXXX.

An Act to repeal an Act, made in the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Years of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to extend the Provisions of an Act, made in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of King* George *the Second, intituled 'An Act to amend 'and make more effectual the Laws relating to Rogues, 'Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly Persons; and 'to Houses of Correction;'* and to make other Provisions in lieu thereof. [1st *July* 1816.]

WHEREAS the Laws now in force have been found insufficient to prevent idle and disorderly Persons from going out armed in the Night-time for the Destruction of Game: And whereas such Practices are found by Experience to lead to the Commission of Felonies and Murders: For the more effectual Suppression thereof, may it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and 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 the Act made in the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Years of His present Majesty,

intituled

39 & 40 G. 3. c. 50. repealed.

intituled *An Act to extend the Provisions of an Act made in the Seventeenth Year of King* George *the Second, intituled* 'An Act to amend and make more effectual the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly Persons; and to Houses of Correction,' be repealed.

Persons going armed or disguised in the Night-time, with apparent Intent to kill or destroy Game, may, on Conviction, be transported, &c.

II. And be it further enacted, That if any Person or Persons shall, after the passing of this Act, unlawfully enter into or be found in any Forest, Chase, Park, Wood, Plantation, Close, or other open or inclosed Ground, in the Night-time, that is to say, between the Hours of Eight of the Clock at Night and Seven in the Morning, from the First Day of *October* to the First Day of *March*, or between the Hours of Ten at Night and Four in the Morning, from the First Day of *March* to the First Day of *October*, in each and every Year, having any Gun, Net, Engine, or other Instrument, for the Purpose and with the Intent to destroy, take, or kill, or shall wilfully destroy, take, or kill, any Hare, Rabbit, Pheasant, Partridge, Heath Fowl commonly called Black Game, or Grouse commonly called Red Game, or any other Game; or if any Person or Persons shall be found with any Gun, Fire Arms, Bludgeon, or with any other offensive Weapon, protecting, aiding, abetting, or assisting any such Person or Persons as aforesaid, every Person so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of a Misdemeanor, and shall be sentenced to Transportation for any Term not exceeding Seven Years, or shall receive such other Punishment as may by Law be inflicted on Persons guilty of Misdemeanors, and as the Court before which such Offenders may be tried and convicted shall adjudge; and if any such Offender or Offenders shall return into *Great Britain* before the Expiration of the Term for which he or they shall be so transported, contrary to the Intent and Meaning hereof, he or they so returning, and being thereof duly convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall be sentenced to Transportation for the Term or Terms of his or their natural Life or Lives.

Such Persons may be apprehended and conveyed before a Justice, who in Default of Bail may commit them.

III. And for the more easy and speedy bringing the Offenders against this Act to Justice, be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Ranger and Rangers, and to and for the Owner and Owners, Occupier and Occupiers, of any such Forest, Chase, Park, Wood, Plantation, Close, or other open or inclosed Ground, and also for his, her, or their Keeper and Keepers, Servant and Servants, and also for any other Person or Persons, to seize and apprehend, or to assist in seizing and apprehending such Offender or Offenders by virtue of this Act, and by the Authority of the same to convey and deliver such Offender or Offenders into the Custody of a Peace Officer, who is hereby authorized and directed to convey such Offender or Offenders before some One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County or Place where such Offence shall be alledged to have been committed; or in case such Offender or Offenders shall not be so apprehended, then it shall and may be lawful for any such Justice, on Information before him, on the Oath of any credible Witness or Witnesses, to issue his Warrant for the Apprehension of such Offender or Offenders; and if upon the Apprehension of any such Offender or Offenders, it shall appear to such Justice on the Oath of any credible Witness or Witnesses, that the Person or Persons so charged hath or have been guilty of any or either of the said Offences, it shall and may be lawful for such Justice to admit such Person or Persons

so charged to Bail, and in Default of Bail to commit such Person or Persons to the County Gaol until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or the next General Commission of Gaol Delivery to be holden for the same County or Place, there to be tried and dealt with as by this Act is directed.

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