

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SEPTIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

****

CAP. XC.

An Act for the Prevention of Perſons going armed by Night for the Deſtruction of Game; and for repealing an Act, made in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, relating to Rogues and Vagabonds.

[10th *July* 1817.]

WHEREAS idle and diſorderly Perſons frequently go armed in the Night-time for the Purpoſe of protecting themſelves, and aiding and abetting and aſſiſting each other in the illegal Deſtruction of Game or Rabbits: And whereas ſuch Practices are found by Experience to lead to the Commiſſion of Felonies and Murders: For the more effectual Suppreſſion 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 if any Perſon or Perſons, having entered into any Foreſt, Chaſe, Park, Wood, Plantation, Cloſe, or other open or incloſed Ground, with the Intent illegally to deſtroy, take, or kill Game or Rabbits, or with the Intent to aid, abet, and aſſiſt any Perſon or Perſons illegally to deſtroy, take, or kill Game or Rabbits, ſhall be found at Night, that is to ſay, between the Hours of Six in the Evening and Seven in the Morning from the Firſt Day of *October* to the Firſt Day of *February*, between Seven in the Evening and Five in the Morning from the Firſt Day of *February* to the Firſt Day of *April*, and between Nine in the Evening and Four in the Morning for the Remainder of the Year, armed with any Gun, Croſs-bow, Fire Arms, Bludgeon,

Perſons found at certain Times within any Foreſt, &c. with Intent to deſtroy, take, or kill Game, deemed guilty of Miſdemeanour.

Bludgeon, or any other offenſive Weapon, every ſuch Perſon ſo offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, ſhall be adjudged guilty of a Miſdemeanour, and ſhall be ſentenced to Tranſportation for Seven Years, or ſhall receive ſuch other Puniſhment as may by Law be inflicted on Perſons guilty of Miſdemeanour, 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.

Tranſportation for Seven Years.

Offenders returning to be tranſported for Life.

II. 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 alleged 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 the Crime of being found armed at Night as aforeſaid, 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; and if in *Scotland*, until ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo charged ſhall be dealt with as any Perſon or Perſons charged with a tranſportable Offence may be dealt with according to the Law and Practice of *Scotland*.

How Offenders are to be brought to Juſtice.

III. 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 at Night, according to the Proviſions of this Act, with reſpect to what ſhall be deemed Night for the Purpoſes hereof, having any Net, Engine, or other Inſtrument, for the Purpoſe and with the Intent to deſtroy, take, or kill, or ſhall wilfully deſtroy, take, or kill Game, 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 ap-

Perſons found in any Foreſt, &c. at Night with any Engine, &c. for deſtroying Game may be taken before a Juſtice.

prehending 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 alleged to have been committed, to be dealt with according to Law.

IV. And be it further enacted, That an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, intituled *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*; shall be and the same is hereby repealed. 56 G. 3. c. 130. repealed.

V. And be it further enacted, That the said Act made in the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Years of His present Majesty, 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,*' shall be and the same is hereby repealed. 39 & 40 G. 3. c. 50. repealed.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty. 1817.