ANNO DECIMO & UNDECIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. LXVI.

An Act for extending the Provisions of the Law respecting Threatening Letters and accusing Parties with a view to extort Money.

[9th *July* 1847.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to extend the Provisions of so much of the Statute made and passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws in* 7 & 8 G. 4. c. 29. England *relative to Larceny and other Offences connected therewith*, and of an Act passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled *An Act for consolidating and amending* 9 G. 4. c. 55 *the Laws in* Ireland *relative to Larceny and other Offences connected therewith*, as relates to the Offences of sending Threatening Letters, and also so much of the Statute made and passed in the First Year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to amend the* 7 W. 4. & 1 Vict. c. 87. *Laws relating to Robbery and Stealing from the Person*, as relates to the Offence of accusing Persons of unnatural Crimes, and to make further Provisions for the Punishment of such Offences: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen'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

Persons sending Threatening Letters, accusing others with certain Crimes, with a view to extort Money, guilty of Felony.

the same, That if any Person shall knowingly send, or deliver, or utter to any other Person, any Letter or Writing accusing or threatening to accuse either the Person to whom such Letter or Writing shall be sent or delivered, or any other Person, of any Crime punishable by Law with Death or Transportation, or of any Assault with Intent to commit any Rape, or of any Attempt or Endeavour to commit any Rape, or of any Crime in and by the said first-mentioned Act defined to be an infamous Crime, with a View or Intent to extort or gain, by means of such Threatening Letter or Writing, any Property, Money, Security, or other valuable Thing, from any Person whatever, or any Letter or Writing threatening to kill or murder any other Person, or to burn or destroy any House, Barn, or other Building, or any Rick or Stack of Grain, Hay, or Straw, or other agricultural Produce, or shall knowingly procure counsel, aid, or abet the Commission of the said Offences or either of them, every such Offender shall be guilty of Felony, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the Discretion of the Court, to be transported beyond the Seas for Life, or for any Term not less than Seven Years, or to be imprisoned, with or without hard Labour, for any Term not exceeding Four Years, and, if a Male, to be once, twice, or thrice publicly or privately whipped (if the Court shall so think fit), in addition to such Imprisonment,

Persons accusing others of Crimes herein-before mentioned, with the view of extorting Money, &c. guilty of Felony.

II. And be it enacted, That if any Person shall accuse or threaten to accuse either the Person to whom such Accusation or Threat shall be made or any other Person of any of the Crimes herein-before specified, with the View or Intent in any of the Cases last aforesaid to extort or gain from such Person so accused or threatened to be accused, or from any other Person whatever, any Property, Money, Security, or other valuable Thing, every such Offender shall be guilty of Felony, and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the Discretion of the Court, to be transported beyond the Seas for Life, or for any Term not less than Seven Years, or to be imprisoned, with or without hard Labour, for any Term not exceeding Four Years, and, if a Male, to be once, twice, or thrice publicly or privately whipped (if the Court shall so think fit), in addition to such Imprisonment.

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