CAP. XXIX.

An Act for regulating the Weights used in Sales of Bullion. [14th *June* 1853.]

'WHEREAS by an Act of the Fifth Year of His late Majesty King *George* the Fourth, Chapter Seventy-four, it was amongst other things enacted, "that the Standard "Troy Pound thereby established or ascertained should be the Unit or only Standard "Measure of Weight from which all other Weights should be derived, computed, and "ascertained, and that One Twelfth Part of the said Troy Pound should be an Ounce:" And whereas by another Act passed in the Session held in the Fifth and Sixth Years of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Sixty-three, further Provisions were made for establishing Uniformity of Weights, and for stamping the Weight thereby authorized to be used: And whereas the Weights now ordinarily used in Sales of Gold and Silver are the Troy Ounce and other Weights, being Multiples or Decimal Parts of such Ounce: And whereas none of the Weights so used have hitherto been stamped, and many of them which are Multiples of the Troy Ounce are not Multiples or Parts of the Troy Pound, and Doubts have arisen whether, under the Provisions of the said recited Acts, or One of them, such Weights are not liable to be seized as illegal, and Contracts and Sales made thereby are not illegal and void: And whereas it is expedient to remove such Doubts, and that Provisions should be made authorizing Contracts and Bargains for and Sale of Gold and Silver, Platina, and precious Stones to be made by the Troy Ounce and Weights being Multiples or Decimal Parts thereof:' 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 the same, as follows; that is to say,

5 G. 4. c. 74.

5 & 6 W. 4. c. 63

I. All Contracts and Bargains made or to be made for and Sales of Gold, Silver, Platina, Diamonds and other precious Stones, made and to be made by the Troy Ounce as ascertained and fixed by the first above-recited Act, and by any Weights being Multiples or Decimal Parts of such Ounce, shall be deemed and reputed and are hereby declared to be good and valid in Law, and for the Purposes of such Contracts, Bargains, and Sales such Troy Ounce shall be taken to be the Standard or Unit of Weight.

Sales of Bullion and precious Stones by the Troy Ounce and Multiples and Decimal Parts thereof to be good and valid.

II. Within Three Months next after the passing of this Act Models of such Multiples and Decimal Parts of the said Troy Ounce as the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury of the United Kingdom for the Time being shall judge expedient, and from Time to Time after the Expiration of the aforesaid Period of Three Months Models of such further Multiples and Decimal Parts of the said Troy Ounce as the Lord High Treasurer or the said Commissioners shall from Time to Time think expedient, shall be carefully made and verified, under the Direction of the said Lord High Treasurer or the said Commissioners, and, when so made and verified, shall be deposited in the Office of the Chamberlain of the Exchequer at *Westminster*, and Copies of the Models so from Time to Time deposited, verified as aforesaid, shall be sent to the Lord Mayor of *London* and the Chief Magistrate of *Edinburgh* and *Dublin*, and to the Chief Magistrate of such other Cities, and to such other Places and Persons in Her Majesty's Dominions or elsewhere as the Lord High Treasurer or the aforesaid Commissioners may from Time to Time direct.

Models of the Multiples and Decimal Parts of the Troy Ounce to be made and verified under the Direction of the Treasury.

Models to be deposited.

III. No Person who heretofore or at any Time previous to the Expiration of Fifteen Months next after the passing of this Act shall, in any Contract, Bargain, or Sale for or of any Gold, Silver, Platina, Diamonds or other precious Stones, have used or shall have had in his Possession any Troy Pound, Troy Ounce, or any Weight being a Multiple or a Decimal Part of the Troy Pound or Troy Ounce, shall be liable to be convicted by reason of such Weight not being One of the Weights authorized by the said second above-recited Act, or an aliquot Part, as therein described, of any such Weight, or by reason of such Weight not being stamped as required by the said last-mentioned Act, nor shall any such

Persons using the Weights authorized by this Act not liable to certain Penalties imposed by 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 63.

Weight at any Time previous to the Expiration of Fifteen Months after the passing of this Act be seized by reason of its not being stamped as aforesaid.

The 1st and 2d Sections of this Act incorporated with 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 63.

IV. The First and Second Sections of this Act shall be taken as Part of the second above-recited Act; and such last-mentioned Act shall be construed and applied in all respects as if the said First and Second Sections of this Act had formed Part of the said second above-recited Act, and had been inserted therein immediately after the Tenth Section thereof.

Contents of Weights to be stamped thereon.

V. The Provisions contained in the Twelfth Section of the second above-recited Act shall not extend or be applied to any Weight made or used under the Provisions of this Act, although the same be of the Weight of One Pound Avoirdupois or more; but every Troy Ounce Weight, and every Weight being a Multiple or Decimal Part of the Troy Ounce, not being less than One Tenth of an Ounce, shall have the Number of such Ounces or Parts of an Ounce therein contained stamped or cast on the Top or Side thereof in legible Figures and Letters; and no Weight, being a Troy Ounce or any Multiple or Part thereof, shall be stamped under the Provisions of the said second above-recited Act unless the Number of Troy Ounces or Parts of an Ounce therein contained shall be so stamped or cast thereon.

CAP. XXX.

An Act for the better Prevention and Punishment of aggravated Assaults upon Women and Children, and for preventing Delay and Expense in the Administration of certain Parts of the Criminal Law. [14th *June* 1853.]

'WHEREAS the present Law has been found insufficient for the Protection of Women and Children from violent Assaults:' Be it 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 the same, as follows:

Power of punishing, on summary Conviction, Assaults committed on Females and Male Children under 14 Years of Age, and occasioning actual bodily Harm, extended.

I. When any Person shall be charged before Two Justices of the Peace sitting at a Place where the Petty Sessions are usually held, or before any Magistrate of the Police Courts of the Metropolis sitting at any such Police Court, or before any Stipendiary Magistrate elsewhere, with an Assault upon any Female whatever, or upon any Male Child whose Age shall not in the Opinion of such Justices or Police or Stipendiary Magistrates exceed Fourteen Years, either upon the Complaint of the Party aggrieved or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the said Justices or Police or Stipendiary Magistrate, if the Assault is of such an aggravated Nature that it cannot in their or his Opinion be sufficiently punished under the Provisions of the Statute Ninth *George* the Fourth, Chapter Thirty-one, to proceed to hear and determine in a summary Way, and if they shall find the same to be proved, to convict the Person accused; and every Offender so convicted shall be liable to be imprisoned in the Common Gaol or House of Correction, with or without Hard Labour, for a Period not exceeding Six Calendar Months, or to pay a Fine not exceeding (together with Costs) the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and in default of Payment to be imprisoned as aforesaid, with or without Hard Labour, for a Period not exceeding Six Calendar Months unless such Fine and Costs be sooner paid, and if the Magistrate or Magistrates shall so think fit shall be bound to keep the Peace and be of good Behaviour for any Period not exceeding Six Calendar Months from the Expiration of such Sentence; and such Conviction shall be a Bar to all future Proceedings, civil or criminal, for or in respect of the same Assault; and no Person convicted under this Act shall be entitled to appeal against such Conviction to the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, anything to the contrary in any Statute notwithstanding.

No Appeal against such Conviction.

II. Where