CAP. XXXVII.

An Act for establishing the Validity of certain Proceedings in Her Majesty's Court of Vice-Admiralty in *Mauritius*. [10th *July* 1854.]

'WHEREAS *James Wilson* Esquire, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court in the *Mauritius*, has, since the Month of *October* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, acted as Judge in Her Majesty's Court of Vice-Admiralty in that Island: And whereas it has been discovered that on various Occasions between the said Month of *October* One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five and the Nineteenth Day of *May* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two he was not duly authorized so to act:' 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:

Certain Acts, &c. done by James Wilson as Judge of Vice-Admiralty Court to be deemed valid.

I. All Acts, Proceedings, and Judgments heretofore done, taken, or given by the said *James Wilson* in the Capacity or assumed Capacity of Judge of the said Vice-Admiralty Court before the Nineteenth Day of *May* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two aforesaid inclusively, and not set aside by any competent Authority before the passing of this Act, shall be deemed to be and to have been as valid and effectual for all Purposes whatever as if the said *James Wilson* had at the Time of such Acts, Proceedings, or Judgments respectively been legally and sufficiently authorized to officiate as such Judge.

James Wilson indemnified for such Acts, &c.

II. No Action, Prosecution, or other Proceeding shall be brought or taken in any Court against the said *James Wilson* by reason of the Illegality or Invalidity of any Act, Proceeding, or Judgment herein-before declared to be valid and effectual.

CAP. XXXVIII.

An Act for the Suppression of Gaming Houses. [24th *July* 1854.]

8 & 9 Vict. c. 109.

'WHEREAS divers Statutes have been made from Time to Time for the Prevention of unlawful Gaming; and particularly by the Act of the Session holden in the Eighth and Ninth Years of Her Majesty, Chapter One hundred and nine, Powers are given to Justices of the Peace in Places beyond the Metropolitan Police District to authorize Constables, and to either of the Commissioners of Police within such District to authorize Superintendents belonging to the Metropolitan Police Force, to enter Houses suspected to be kept as Common Gaming Houses, and to arrest all Persons found therein; and it is thereby enacted, that where any Cards, Dice, Balls, Counters, Tables or other Instruments of Gaming used in playing any unlawful Game shall be found in any House, Room, or Place suspected to be used as a Common Gaming House, and entered under a Warrant or Order issued under the Provisions of that Act, or about the Person of any of those who shall be found therein, it shall be Evidence until the contrary be made to appear, that such House, Room, or Place used as a Common Gaming House, and that the Persons found in the Room or Place where such Tables, or Instruments of Gaming shall have been found were playing therein: And whereas the Keepers of Common Gaming Houses contrive by fortifying the Entrances to such Houses, or by other Means to keep out the Officers authorized to enter the same until the Instruments of Gaming have been removed or destroyed, so that no sufficient Evidence can be obtained to convict the Offenders, who are thereby encouraged to persist in the Violation of the Law: And whereas it is expedient that the Law shall be made more efficient for the Suppression of Gaming Houses:' 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:

Penalty on Persons obstructing the Entry of Constables author-

I. Any Person who shall wilfully prevent any Constable or Officer authorized under the Provisions of the said Act of the Eighth and Ninth Years of Her Majesty to enter any House, Room, or Place, from entering the same or any Part thereof, or who shall obstruct or delay any such Constable or Officer in so entering, and any Person who, by any Bolt, Bar, Chain