## CAP. XXIV.

An Act to amend an Act of the Second and Third Years of King *William* the Fourth, for amending the Representation of the People in *Scotland*, in so far as relates to the Procedure in County Elections in that Country.

[25th *May* 1855.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient that the Time between the Receipt of the Writ by the Sheriff and the Day of Election of Members to serve in Parliament for Counties in *Scotland* should be shortened:' 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:

Sheriff to endorse on the Writ the Day on which he received it and announce the Time for the Election. 2 & 3 W. 4. c. 65.

I. Each Sheriff to whom any Writ for the Election of a Member to serve for any County or combined Counties in *Scotland* (except *Orkney* and *Shetland*) shall be directed, under the Provisions of an Act passed in the Second and Third Years of the Reign of His late Majesty, intituled *An Act to amend the Representation of the People in* Scotland, shall endorse on the Writ the Day on which he received it, and shall within Two Days thereafter announce a Day for the Election, which Day shall be not less than Six nor more than Twelve Days in Counties or combined Counties after the Day on which the Writ was received, and shall give due Intimation thereof as is provided in the said Act.

Proviso as to Orkney and Shetland.

II. In the Case of *Orkney* and *Shetland* the Provisions of the said Act, in so far as they relate to the fixing and Announcement of the Day of Election, and the Interval to elapse between the Receipt of the Writ and the Day of Election, shall remain in full Force and Effect, anything in this Act contained notwithstanding.

Provisions of recited Act so far as inconsistent with this Act repealed.

III. In all Cases in which the Provisions of the said Act shall be inconsistent with this Act, and in as far as shall be necessary to give Effect to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, but no further, the said Act shall be and the same is to such Extent hereby repealed; and the said Act shall in all other respects remain in full Force and Effect, and be as good and effectual to carry this Act into execution, as if the same were herein repeated and re-enacted.

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## CAP. XXV.

An Act to allow Affirmations or Declarations to be made instead of Oaths in certain Cases in *Scotland*.

[25th *May* 1855.]

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:

Affirmation instead of Oath to be allowed in certain Cases.

I. If any Person called as a Witness in any Court of Civil Judicature in *Scotland*, or required or desiring to make an Affidavit or Deposition, shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious Motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge or other presiding Officer or Person qualified to take Affidavits or Depositions, on being satisfied of the Sincerity of such Objection, to permit such Person instead of being sworn to make his or her solemn Affirmation or Declaration in the Words following, *videlicet*,

'I *A.B.* do solemnly, sincerely, and truly affirm and declare that the taking of any Oath is, according to my Religious Belief, unlawful; and I do solemnly, sincerely, and truly affirm and declare,' &c.

Which solemn Affirmation and Declaration shall be of the same Force and Effect as if such Person had taken an Oath in the usual Form, and shall in like Manner infer the Pains of Perjury in case of Falsehood.

II. It