ANNO OCTAVO & NONO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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C A P. XLIV.

An Act for the better Protection of Works of Art, and Scientific and Literary Collections.

[21st *July* 1845.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the better Protection of Works of Art, and of Scientific and Literary Collections, and also of public Statues and Monuments, from wanton Injury; 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, That from and after the passing of this Act every Person who shall unlawfully and maliciously destroy or damage any thing kept for the Purposes of Art, Science, or Literature, or as an Object of Curiosity, in any Museum, Gallery, Cabinet, Library, or other Repository, which Museum, Gallery, Cabinet, Library, or other Repository is either at all Times or from Time to Time open for the Admission of the Public, or of any considerable Number of Persons, to view the same, either by Permission of the Proprietor thereof, or by the Payment of Money before entering the same, or any Picture, Statue, Monument, or Painted Glass in any Church or Chapel or other Place of religious Worship, or any Statue or Monument exposed to public View, shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and, being duly convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any Period not exceeding Six Months, and, if a

Punishment for malicious Injury to Works of Art, &c.

Male, may during the Period of such Imprisonment be put to hard Labour, or be once, twice, or thrice privately whipped, in such Manner as the Court before which such Person shall be tried shall direct.

Malice to be implied.

II. And be it enacted, That every Punishment imposed on any Person for an Offence against this Act shall apply and be enforced, whether the Offence shall be committed from Malice conceived against the Owner of the Thing damaged or destroyed or not.

Apprehension of Offenders.

III. And be it enacted, That any Person found committing any Offence against this Act may be immediately apprehended, without a Warrant, by any other Person, and forthwith taken before some neighbouring Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with according to Law.

Act not to affect the Right to recover Damages.

IV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the Right of any Person to recover by Action at Law Damages for the Injury so committed.

Accessories punishable as Principals.

V. And be it enacted, That every Person who shall abet, counsel, or procure the Commission of any Offence against this Act shall be punished as a principal Offender.

Act not to extend to Scotland.

VI. And be it enacted, That this Act shall not extend to *Scotland*.

Alteration of Act.

VII. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this Session of Parliament.

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