ANNO TRICESIMO SEXTO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. VIII.

An Act for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Aſſemblies. [18th *December* 1795.]



WHEREAS Aſſemblies of divers Perſons, collected for the Purpoſe or under the Pretext of deliberating on Publick Grievances, and of agreeing on Petitions, Complaints, Remonſtrances, Declarations, or other Addreſſes, to the King, or to both Houſes, or either Houſe of Parliament, have of late been made uſe of to ſerve the Ends of Factious and Seditious Perſons, to the great Danger of the Publick Peace, and may become the Means of producing Confuſion and Calamities in the Nation: Be it enacted by the King'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 no Meeting, of any Deſcription of Perſons, exceeding the Number of Fifty Perſons, (other than and except any Meeting of any County, Riding, or Diviſion, called by the Lord Lieutenant, Cuſtos Rotulorum, or Sheriff, of ſuch County; or a Meeting called by the Convener of any County or Stewartry in that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*; or any Meeting called by Two or more Juſtices of the Peace of the County or Place where ſuch Meeting ſhall be holden; or any Meeting of any County, having different Ridings or Diviſions, called by any Two Juſtices of any One or more of ſuch Ridings or Diviſions; or any Meeting called by the major Part of the Grand Jury of the County, or of the Diviſion of the County, where ſuch Meeting ſhall be holden, at their General Aſſizes or General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace; or any Meeting of any City, or Borough, or Town Corporate, called by the Mayor or other Head Officer of ſuch City, or Borough, or Town Corporate; or any Meeting of any Ward or Diviſion of any City or Town Corporate, called by the Alder-

Preamble.

No Meeting of more than 50 Perſons (except County Meetings, &c.) to be holden for or on Pretext of preparing Petitions for Alteration of Matters eſtabliſhed in Church or State, unleſs previous Notice be given by Seven Houſeholders in ſome Newſpaper, &c.

man or other Head Officer of such Ward or Division; or any Meeting of any Corporate Body), shall be holden, for the Purpose or on the Pretext of considering of or preparing any Petition, Complaint, Remonstrance, or Declaration, or other Address, to the King, or to both Houses, or either House of Parliament, for Alteration of Matters established in Church or State, or for the Purpose or on the Pretext of deliberating upon any Grievance in Church or State, unless Notice of the Intention to hold such Meeting, and of the Time and Place when and where the same shall be proposed to be holden, and of the Purpose for which the same shall be proposed to be holden, shall be given, in the Names of Seven Persons at the least, being Householders resident within the County, City, or Place where such Meeting shall be proposed to be holden, whose Places of Abode and Descriptions shall be inserted in such Notice, and which Notice shall be given by publick Advertisement in some publick Newspaper usually circulated in the County and Division where such Meeting shall be holden Five Days at the least before such Meeting shall be holden, or shall be delivered in Manner herein-after mentioned; and that such Notice shall not be inserted in any such Newspaper unless the Authority to insert such Notice shall be signed by Seven Persons at the least, being Householders resident within the County, City, or Place where such Meeting shall be proposed to be holden, and named in such Notice, and unless such Authority, so signed, shall be written at the Foot of a true Copy of such Notice, and shall be delivered to the Person required to insert the same in any such Newspaper as aforesaid; which Person shall cause such Notice and Authority to be carefully preserved, and shall also, at any Time after such Notice shall have been inserted in such Paper, and within Fourteen Days after the Day on which such Meeting shall be had, produce such Notice and Authority, and cause a true Copy thereof (if required) to be delivered to any Justice of the Peace for the County, City, Town, or Place, where such Person shall reside, or where such Newspaper shall be printed, and who shall require the same; and in case any Person shall insert any such Notice in any Newspaper, without such Authority as aforesaid, or in case any Person to whom any such Notice and Authority shall have been delivered for the Purpose of inserting such Notice in any such Newspaper as aforesaid, shall refuse to produce such Notice and Authority, or to deliver a true Copy thereof, being thereunto required as aforesaid, within Three Days after such Production and Copy, or either of them, shall have been so required, every such Person, for every such Offence, shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds to any Person who shall sue for the same.

Notice not to be inserted, unless the Authority to do so be written at the Foot thereof.

Notice and Authority to be preserved, and produced to a Justice if required.

Penalty of 50*l.* for inserting Notice without such Authority, &c.

II. Provided always, nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful to deliver any such Notice as aforesaid, signed by the Seven Persons in whose Names such Notice shall be given, with their Places of Abode, and Descriptions, Five Days at the least before the Day on which such Meeting shall be holden, to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Riding, or Division, within which such Meeting shall be proposed to be holden; and such Clerk of the Peace shall forthwith, and without Delay, send a true Copy of such Notice, with such Signatures and Additions as aforesaid, to Three Justices of the Peace at the least, of such County, Riding, or Division, then resident within such County, Riding, or Division; or in case the Justices of the Peace of the City, Borough, or Town, where such Meeting shall be pro-

Notice may be given to the Clerk of the Peace, who shall forthwith send a Copy to the Justices:

poſed to be holden, ſhall have excluſive Juriſdiction, then to Three of ſuch Juſtices, if ſo many ſhall then be reſident within ſuch Juriſdiction, and if not, then to ſo many of ſuch Juſtices as ſhall be reſident within ſuch excluſive Juriſdiction; and in ſuch Caſe, ſuch Notice ſo given by ſuch Means as aforeſaid, ſhall be as effectual, to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if the ſame had been given by publick Advertiſement, inſerted in any ſuch Newſpaper as aforeſaid.

Such Notice to be effectual.

III. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all Meetings, of any Deſcription of Perſons, exceeding the Number of Fifty Perſons (other than and except as aforeſaid), which ſhall be holden without ſuch previous Notice as aforeſaid, for the Purpoſe or on the Pretext of conſidering of or preparing any Petition, Complaint, Remonſtrance, Declaration, or other Addreſs, to the King, or both Houſes, or either Houſe of Parliament, for Alteration of Matters eſtabliſhed in Church or State, or for the Purpoſe or on the Pretext of deliberating on any Grievance in Church or State, ſhall be deemed and taken to be unlawful Aſſemblies.

Meetings without Notice to be deemed unlawful Aſſemblies.

IV. And be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Perſons, exceeding the Number of Fifty, being aſſembled contrary to the Proviſions herein-before contained, and being required or commanded by any One or more Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, or by the Sheriff of the County or his Under Sheriff, or by the Mayor or other Head Officer or Juſtice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where ſuch Aſſembly ſhall be, by Proclamation to be made in the King's Name, in the Form herein-after directed, to diſperſe themſelves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Buſineſs, ſhall, to the Number of Twelve or more, notwithſtanding ſuch Proclamation made, remain or continue together by the Space of One Hour after ſuch Command or Requeſt made by Proclamation, that then ſuch continuing together to the Number of Twelve or more, after ſuch Command or Requeſt made by Proclamation, ſhall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein ſhall be adjudged Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death, as in caſe of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

If 12 or more Perſons aſſembled contrary to this Act, ſhall continue together One Hour after being required by a Juſtice, &c. to diſperſe, they ſhall ſuffer Death.

V. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Order and Form of the Proclamation to be made as aforeſaid ſhall be as hereafter followeth; (that is to ſay), the Juſtice of the Peace, or other Perſon authorized by this Act to make the ſaid Proclamation, ſhall, among the ſaid Perſons aſſembled, or as near to them as he can ſafely come, with a loud Voice command, or cauſe to be commanded, Silence to be while Proclamation is making, and after that ſhall openly and with loud Voice make, or cauſe to be made, Proclamation in theſe Words, or like in Effect:

Proclamation to be made in the following Form.

'OUR Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all Perſons being aſſembled immediately to diſperſe themſelves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations or to their lawful Buſineſs, upon the Pains contained in the Act, made in the Thirty-ſixth Year of King *George* the Third, *for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Aſſemblies*.

'GOD ſave the KING.'

VI. And

If in Meetings holden pursuant to Notice, any Matter shall be propounded or deliberated upon, purporting that any Thing by Law established may be altered except by Authority of King, Lords, and Commons, &c. a Magistrate may order them to disperse; and if 12 or more Persons shall continue together an Hour thereafter, they shall suffer Death.

VI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Meeting shall be holden, in pursuance of any such Notice as aforesaid, and the Purpose for which the same shall in such Notice have been declared to be holden, or any Matter which shall be in such Notice proposed to be propounded or deliberated upon at such Meeting, shall purport that any Matter or Thing by Law established may be altered otherwise than by the Authority of the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, or shall tend to incite or stir up the People to Hatred or Contempt of the Person of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or of the Government and Constitution of this Realm, as by Law established, it shall be lawful for One or more Justice or Justices, or the Sheriff of the County where such Meeting shall be, or for the Mayor or other Head Officer, or any Justice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where any such Meeting shall be, by Proclamation, to require or command the Persons there assembled to disperse themselves; and if any Persons, to the Number of Twelve or more, being so required or commanded, by Proclamation to be made in the King's Name, in the Form herein-before directed, to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Business, shall, to the Number of Twelve or more, notwithstanding such Proclamation made, remain or continue together by the Space of One Hour after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, that then such continuing together to the Number of Twelve or more, after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death, as in case of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Justices at Meetings on Notice may order Persons propounding or maintaining Propositions for altering any Thing by Law established except by Authority of the King, Lords, and Commons, &c. to be taken into Custody; and in case of Resistance may cause Proclamation to be made as aforesaid; and if 12 or more shall continue together an Hour thereafter, they shall suffer Death.

VII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, present at any Meeting requiring such Notice as aforesaid, shall think fit to order any Person or Persons who shall at such Meeting proceed to propound or maintain any Proposition for altering any Thing by Law established, otherwise than by the Authority of the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, or shall wilfully and advisedly make any Proposition, or hold any Discourse, for the Purpose of inciting and stirring up the People to Hatred or Contempt of the Person of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or the Government and Constitution of this Realm, as by Law established, to be taken into Custody, to be dealt with according to Law; and in case the said Justice or Justices, or any of them, or any Peace Officer acting under their or any of their Orders, shall be obstructed in taking into Custody any Person or Persons so ordered to be taken into Custody, then and in such Case it shall be lawful for any such Justice or Justices thereupon to make, or cause to be made, such Proclamation as aforesaid, in Manner aforesaid; and if any Persons to the Number of Twelve or more, being required or commanded by such Proclamation to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart as aforesaid, shall, to the Number of Twelve or more, notwithstanding such Proclamation made, remain or continue together by the Space of One Hour after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, that then such continuing together to the Number of Twelve or more, after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons,

Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death, as in caſe of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Magiſtrates may reſort to Aſſemblies and act, and may require the Aſſiſtance of Peace Officers,

VIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Juſtice and Juſtices of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, and other Head Officer aforeſaid, is and are hereby authorized and empowered, on Notice or Knowledge of any ſuch Meeting or Aſſembly as is herein-before mentioned, to reſort to the Place where ſuch Meeting or Aſſembly ſhall be, or ſhall be intended to be holden, or to any Part thereof, and there to do, or order or cauſe to be done, all ſuch Acts, Matters, and Things, as the Caſe may require, which they are hereby enabled to do, or order to be done, or which they are otherwiſe by Law enabled to do, or ordered to be done; and it ſhall be lawful for all and every Juſtices of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, and other Head Officer as aforeſaid, to take and require the Aſſiſtance of any Number of Conſtables or other Officers of the Peace, within their reſpective Diſtricts, or within the Diſtrict or Place wherein every ſuch Meeting as herein-before mentioned ſhall be holden; which Conſtables and other Officers of the Peace are hereby required to attend accordingly ſuch Juſtices, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, or other Head Officer reſpectively, and to give ſuch Aſſiſtance as ſhall be neceſſary for the due Execution of this Act.

Perſons not diſperſing within an Hour after Proclamation may be apprehended;

IX. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if ſuch Perſons ſo aſſembled as aforeſaid, or Twelve or more of them, after any Proclamation made in Manner aforeſaid, ſhall continue together, and not diſperſe themſelves within One Hour, that then it ſhall and may be lawful to and for every Juſtice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Under Sheriff of the County where ſuch Aſſembly ſhall be, and alſo to and for every High or Petty Conſtable, and other Peace Officer within ſuch County, and alſo to and for every Mayor, Juſtice of the Peace, Sheriff, and other Head Officer, High or Petty Conſtable and other Peace Officer, of any City or Town Corporate where ſuch Aſſembly ſhall be, and to and for ſuch other Perſon and Perſons as ſhall be commanded to be aſſiſting unto any ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, Sheriff or Under Sheriff, Mayor, or other Head Officer aforeſaid, who are hereby authorized and empowered to command all His Majeſty's Subjects, of Age and Ability, to be aſſiſting to them therein, to ſeize and apprehend, and they are hereby required to ſeize and apprehend, ſuch Perſons ſo aſſembled, and continuing together after Proclamation made as aforeſaid, and forthwith to carry the Perſons ſo apprehended before One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of the County or Place where ſuch Perſons ſhall be ſo apprehended, in order to their being proceeded againſt for ſuch Offences according to Law; and that if the Perſons ſo aſſembled, or any of them, ſhall happen to be killed, maimed, or hurt in the diſperſing, ſeizing, or apprehending, or endeavouring to diſperſe, ſeize, or apprehend them, by reaſon of their reſiſting the Perſons ſo diſperſing, ſeizing, or apprehending, or endeavouring to diſperſe, ſeize, or apprehend them, that then every ſuch Juſtice of the Peace, Sheriff, Under Sheriff, Mayor, Head Officer, High or Petty Conſtable, or other Peace Officer, and all and ſingular Perſons, being aiding and aſſiſting to them or any of them, ſhall be free, diſcharged, and indemnified, as well againſt the King's Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, as againſt all and every

and if killed or maimed by Reaſon of their Reſiſtance, the Magiſtrate, &c. indemnified,

every other Perſon and Perſons, of, for, or concerning the killing, maiming, or hurting, of any ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo aſſembled, that ſhall happen to be ſo killed, maimed, or hurt as aforeſaid.

Perſons obſtructing Magiſtrates attending, or going to attend Meetings, or obſtructing Perſons proclaiming, to ſuffer Death.

X. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Perſon or Perſons do or ſhall, with Force and Arms, wilfully and knowingly oppoſe, obſtruct, or in any Manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt, any Juſtice of the Peace, or other Perſon authorized as aforeſaid, who ſhall attend any ſuch Meeting as aforeſaid, or who ſhall be going to attend any ſuch Meeting, or any Perſon or Perſons who ſhall begin to proclaim, or go to proclaim, according to any Proclamation hereby directed to be made, whereby ſuch Proclamation ſhall not be made, that then every ſuch oppoſing, obſtructing, letting, hindering, or hurting, any ſuch Juſtice or other Perſons ſo authorized as aforeſaid, and ſo attending, or going to attend any ſuch Meeting, or any ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo beginning or going to make any ſuch Proclamation as aforeſaid, ſhall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein ſhall be adjudged Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death as in caſe of Felony without Benefit of Clergy; and that alſo every ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo being aſſembled as aforeſaid, to the Number of Fifty or more as aforeſaid, to whom any ſuch Proclamation as aforeſaid ſhould or ought to have been made, if the ſame had not been hindered as aforeſaid, ſhall likewiſe, in caſe they or any of them, to the Number of Twelve or more, ſhall continue together, and not diſperſe themſelves within One Hour after ſuch Let or Hindrance ſo made, having Knowledge of ſuch Let or Hindrance ſo made, ſhall be adjudged Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death as in caſe of Felony without Benefit of Clergy; and that alſo, if any Perſon or Perſons, ſo being at any ſuch Aſſembly as aforeſaid, ſhall with Force and Arms wilfully and knowingly oppoſe, obſtruct, or in any Manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt, any Juſtice of the Peace, or other Magiſtrate, or any Peace Officer, in apprehending or taking into Cuſtody, in Execution of any of the Proviſions of this Act hereinbefore contained, any Perſon or Perſons, or endeavouring ſo to do, that then every ſuch oppoſing, obſtructing, letting, hindering, or hurting, ſhall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein ſhall be adjudged Felons, and ſhall ſuffer Death as in caſe of Felony without Benefit of Clergy.

Perſons aſſembled to whom Proclamation ought to have been made, if the ſame had not been hindered, continuing together to the Number of 12 or more, for an Hour after ſuch Hindrance, to ſuffer Death.

Perſons at ſuch Aſſemblies oppoſing the taking Offenders into Cuſtody to ſuffer Death.

Sheriffs Depute, *&c.* in *Scotland*, to have the ſame Power as Juſtices in *England*.

XI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That the Sheriffs Depute and their Subſtitutes, Stewards Depute and their Subſtitutes, Juſtices of the Peace, Magiſtrates of Royal Boroughs, and all other inferior Judges and Magiſtrates, and alſo all High and Petty Conſtables or other Peace Officers, of any County, Stewartry, City, or Town, within that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, ſhall have ſuch and the ſame Powers and Authorities, for putting this preſent Act in Execution within *Scotland*, as the Juſtices of the Peace and other Magiſtrates aforeſaid reſpectively have, by virtue of this Act, within and for the other Parts of this Kingdom; and that all and every Perſon and Perſons who ſhall at any Time be convicted of any of the Felonies afore-mentioned, within that Part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*, ſhall for every ſuch Offence incur and ſuffer the Pain of Death, and Confiſcation of Moveables.

Perſons convicted of Felonies in *Scotland*, to incur the Pain of Death and Confiſcation of Moveables.

Places for Lectures or Debates concerning ſuppoſed publick Grievances, where Money is paid for Admiſſion, unleſs previouſly licenſed, to be deemed diſorderly Places, and the Perſons opening or uſing them, to forfeit 100*l.*, &c.

XII. And whereas certain Houſes, Rooms, or Places, within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and in the Neighbourhood thereof, and in other Places, have of late been frequently uſed for the Purpoſe of delivering Lectures and Diſcourſes on and concerning ſuppoſed Publick Grievances, and Matters relating to the Laws, Conſtitution, and Government and Policy of theſe Kingdoms, and treating and debating on and concerning the ſame; and under Pretence thereof Lectures or Diſcourſes have been delivered, and Debates held, tending to ſtir up Hatred and Contempt of His Majeſty's Royal Perſon, and of the Government and Conſtitution of this Realm as by Law eſtabliſhed: Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That every Houſe, Room, Field, or other Place where Lectures or Diſcourſes ſhall be delivered, or publick Debates ſhall be had on or concerning any ſuppoſed Publick Grievance, or any Matters relating to the Laws, Conſtitution, Government, or Policy of theſe Kingdoms, for the Purpoſe of raiſing or collecting Money, or any other valuable Thing, from the Perſons admitted, whether ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, ſhall be opened or uſed for any ſuch Purpoſe alone, or for any ſuch Purpoſe together with any other Purpoſe, or under whatever Pretence the ſame ſhall be opened or uſed, to which any Perſon ſhall be admitted by the Payment of Money, or by Tickets ſold for Money, or in conſequence of his paying or giving, or having paid or given, or agreeing thereafter to pay or give, in any Manner, any Money or other Thing for or in reſpect of his Admiſſion into ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, unleſs the opening or uſing of ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, ſhall have been previouſly licenſed in Manner herein-after mentioned, ſhall be deemed a diſorderly Houſe or Place, and the Perſon by whom ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, ſhall be opened or uſed for the Purpoſe aforeſaid, ſhall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds for every Day or Time that ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, ſhall be opened or uſed as aforeſaid, to ſuch Perſon as will ſue for the ſame, and be otherwiſe puniſhed as the Law directs in Caſes of diſorderly Houſes; and every Perſon managing or conducting the Proceedings, or acting as Moderator, Preſident, or Chairman, at ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, or therein debating, or delivering any Diſcourſe or Lecture for the Purpoſe aforeſaid, and alſo every Perſon who ſhall pay, give, collect, or receive, or agree to pay, give, collect, or receive, any Money or other Thing, for or in reſpect of the Admiſſion of any Perſon into any ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, or ſhall deliver out, diſtribute, or receive, any ſuch Ticket or Tickets as aforeſaid, knowing ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, to be opened or uſed for ſuch Purpoſe, ſhall for every ſuch Offence forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds to ſuch Perſon as will ſue for the ſame.

And the Perſons managing the Proceedings, and the Perſons paying or receiving Money for Admiſſion, or delivering or receiving Tickets, to forfeit 100*l.*

Perſons appearing as Maſter, &c. of ſuch Places liable to Proſecution.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon who ſhall at any Time hereafter appear, act, or behave him or herſelf as Maſter or Miſtreſs, or as the Perſon having the Command, Government, or Management, of any ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place as aforeſaid, ſhall be deemed and taken to be a Perſon by whom the ſame is opened or uſed as aforeſaid, and ſhall be liable to be ſued or proſecuted, and puniſhed as ſuch, notwithſtanding he or ſhe be not, in Fact, the real Owner or Occupier thereof.

Magiſtrates who, by Information on Oath, have Reaſon to ſuſpect that any Place is opened for delivering Lectures, &c. may demand to be admitted; and in caſe of Refuſal, the Place to be deemed diſorderly, and the Perſon refuſing Admittance to forfeit 100 *l.*

XIV. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall be lawful for any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, or Chief Magiſtrate reſpectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, who ſhall by Information upon Oath, have Reaſon to ſuſpect that any Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, or any Parts or Part thereof, are or is opened or uſed for the Purpoſe of delivering Lectures or Diſcourſes, or for publick Debate, contrary to the Proviſions of this Act, to go to ſuch Houſe, Room, or Place, and demand to be admitted therein; and in caſe ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, or other Magiſtrate, ſhall be refuſed Admittance to ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, or any Part thereof, the ſame ſhall be deemed a diſorderly Houſe or Place, within the Intent and Meaning of this Act; and all and every the Proviſions herein-before contained reſpecting any Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, herein-before declared to be a diſorderly Houſe, or Place, ſhall be applied to ſuch Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, where ſuch Admittance ſhall have been refuſed as aforeſaid, and every Perſon refuſing ſuch Admittance ſhall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds to any Perſon who ſhall ſue for the ſame.

Magiſtrates may demand Admittance to any licenſed Place at the Time of delivering Lectures, &c. and if refuſed it ſhall be deemed diſorderly,

and the Perſon refuſing Admittance ſhall forfeit 100 *l.*

XV. Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall be lawful for any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace, or Chief Magiſtrate reſpectively, of any County, City, Borough, or Place, where any ſuch Houſe, Room, or other Building, ſhall be licenſed as aforeſaid, to go to ſuch Houſe, Room, or Building ſo licenſed, at the Time of delivering any ſuch Lecture or Diſcourſe therein as aforeſaid, or at the Time appointed for delivering any ſuch Lecture or Diſcourſe, and demand to be admitted therein; and in caſe ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, or other Magiſtrate, ſhall be refuſed Admittance to ſuch Houſe, Room, or Building, the ſame ſhall be deemed, notwithſtanding any ſuch Licence as aforeſaid, a diſorderly Houſe or Place, within the Meaning of this Act; and all and every the Proviſions herein-before contained, reſpecting any Houſe, Room, Field, or Place, herein-before declared to be a diſorderly Houſe or Place, ſhall be applied to ſuch Houſe, Room, or Building, ſo licenſed as aforeſaid, where ſuch Admittance ſhall have been refuſed as aforeſaid; and every Perſon refuſing ſuch Admittance ſhall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds to any Perſon who will ſue for the ſame.

Juſtices may licenſe Places for delivering Lectures; and may revoke them.

XVI. Provided nevertheleſs, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall be lawful for Two or more Juſtices of the Peace of the County, City, Town, or Place, where any Houſe, Room, or other Building ſhall be, which any Perſon ſhall be deſirous to open for any of the Purpoſes aforeſaid, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, at their General Quarter Seſſion of the Peace, or at any Special Seſſion to be held for the particular Purpoſe, to grant a Licence to any Perſon or Perſons deſiring the ſame, to open ſuch Houſe, Room, or other Building, for the Purpoſe of delivering for Money any ſuch Lectures or Diſcourſes as aforeſaid, on any of the Subjects aforeſaid, the ſame being clearly expreſſed in ſuch Licence, for which Licence a Fee of One Shilling, and no more, ſhall be paid, and the ſame ſhall be in force for the Space of One Year, and no longer, or for any leſs Space of Time, therein to be ſpecified; and which Licence it ſhall be

lawful for the Juſtices of the ſame County, City, Town, or Place, at any General Quarter Seſſion of the Peace, to revoke and declare void and no longer in force, by any Order of ſuch Juſtices, a Copy whereof ſhall be delivered to or ſerved upon the Perſon to whom the ſaid Licence ſo revoked ſhall have been granted, or ſhall be left at the Houſe, Room, or Building, for which ſuch Licence ſhall have been granted, and thereupon ſuch Licence ſhall ceaſe and determine, and be thenceforth utterly void and of no Effect.

Recovery of Forfeitures.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That any Perſon entitled to any of the Forfeitures aforeſaid may ſue by Action of Debt in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at *Weſtminſter*, or in the Courts of Juſticiary or Exchequer in *Scotland*, when the Cauſe of Action ſhall ariſe in *Scotland*, in which Action it ſhall be ſufficient to declare that the Defendant is indebted to the Plaintiff in the Sum of (being the Sum demanded by the ſaid Action) being forfeited by an Act, made in the Thirty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His Majeſty King *George* the Third, intituled, *An Act for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Aſſemblies*; and the Plaintiff, if he ſhall recover in any ſuch Action, ſhall have his full Coſts: Provided alſo, that if any Action or Suit ſhall be brought againſt any Perſon for any Thing done in purſuance and in Execution of this Act, the Defendant may plead the General Iſſue; and if a Verdict paſs for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff diſcontinue his or her Action, or be nonſuited, or Judgement be given againſt the Plaintiff, then ſuch Defendant ſhall have Treble Coſts.

General Iſſue.

Treble Coſts.

Act not to extend to Univerſities,

XVIII. Provided alſo, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall be conſtrued to extend to any Lectures or Diſcourſes to be delivered in any of the Univerſities of theſe Kingdoms, by any Member thereof, or any Perſon authorized by the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, or other proper Officers of ſuch Univerſities reſpectively.

nor to Inſtructors of Youth.

XIX. Provided alſo, and be it enacted, That no Payment made to any Schoolmaſter or other Perſon by Law allowed to teach and inſtruct Youth, in reſpect of any Lectures or Diſcourſes delivered by ſuch Schoolmaſter, or other Perſon, for the Inſtruction only of ſuch Youth as ſhall be committed to his Inſtruction, ſhall be deemed a Payment of Money for Admiſſion to ſuch Lectures or Diſcourſes within the Intent and Meaning of this Act.

Act not to abridge any Law for the Suppreſſion or Puniſhment of Offences herein deſcribed.

XX. Provided alſo, That nothing in this Act contained ſhall be deemed to take away or abridge any Proviſion already made by the Law of this Realm, or of any Part thereof, for the Suppreſſion or Puniſhment of any Offence whatſoever deſcribed in this Act.

Act to be read at certain Times.

XXI. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That this Act ſhall be openly read at every *Epiphany* Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, and at every Leet or Law Day.

Limitation of Actions.

XXII. Provided always, That no Perſon ſhall be proſecuted by virtue of this Act, unleſs ſuch Proſecution ſhall be commenced within Six Calendar Months

Months after the Offence committed; and no Action ſhall be brought, for any of the Penalties by this Act impoſed, unleſs the ſame ſhall be brought within Three Calendar Months next after the Offence committed.

Commencement and Continuance of Act.

XXIII. Provided alſo, That this Act ſhall commence and have Effect within the City of *London*, and within Twenty Miles thereof, from the Day next after the Day of paſſing this Act, and ſhall commence and have Effect within all other Parts of the Kingdom, from the Expiration of Seven Days next after the Day of paſſing this Act, and ſhall be and continue in force for Three Years from the Day of paſſing this Act, and until the End of the then next Seſſion of Parliament.

FINIS.