

ANNO DECIMO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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CAP. I.

An Act for the Suppression of dangerous Associations or Assemblies in *Ireland*. [5th *March* 1829.]

WHEREAS an Association hath for some Time past existed in *Ireland*, calling itself, or which hath been usually called, "The Catholic Association," the Acts and Proceedings of which are dangerous to the Public Tranquillity and inconsistent with the Exercise of regular Government: Be it therefore 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 from and after the Commencement of this Act the said Association shall be and the same is hereby utterly suppressed and prohibited; and every Assembly or Meeting thereof, or of any of the Members thereof, as such Members, is hereby declared to be an unlawful Assembly, and the Persons present at the same shall be deemed guilty of a Misdemeanor.

Catholic Association suppressed.

II. And whereas divers Statutes have from Time to Time been passed for the Suppression of dangerous Associations and Assemblies in *Ireland*, but the same have been by various Shifts and Devices evaded: And whereas in the present State of *Ireland* it is expedient that, for the Time to be hereby limited, a Power should be vested in the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of

Lord Lieutenant empowered to suppress Associations or Assemblies, by Proclamation.

of *Ireland*, by his or their Proclamation or Order, to prohibit or suppress any Association, Assembly, or Meeting of Persons in *Ireland*, which he or they shall deem to be dangerous to the public Peace or Safety, or inconsistent with the due Administration of the Law; be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, by his or their Proclamation or Order, to prohibit or suppress the Meeting of any Association, Assembly, or Body of Persons in *Ireland*, which he or they shall deem to be dangerous to the public Peace or Safety, or inconsistent with the due Administration of the Law, or any adjourned, renewed, or otherwise continued Meeting of the same, or of any Part thereof, under any Name, Pretext, or Device whatsoever.

How Justices of the Peace shall proceed to disperse such Associations.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Justices of the Peace to whom such Proclamation or Order shall be given or transmitted by the Direction of the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland* for the Purpose of being enforced, or any Number of such Justices, not being less than Two, shall and may proceed, with such Assistance as shall be necessary, to the Place where such Association, Assembly, or Meeting of Persons is held, and require and demand Admission into any House, Room, or Place whatever, where any such Justices shall have good Reason to believe, upon Information on Oath, that such unlawful Association, Assembly, or Meeting of Persons is held, and shall and may, in case they shall be refused Admission, enter therein by Force; and One of the said Justices, or some other Person by his Order, shall then and there read or repeat aloud to the Persons so assembled a Command or Notice to disperse, in the Words or to the Effect following; (that is to say,)

Notice to disperse.

'OUR Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all Persons being assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart, upon the Pains contained in the Act made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, for the Suppression of dangerous Associations or Assemblies in *Ireland*.'

Persons not dispersing when required, may be apprehended and committed.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Persons so met or assembled together shall forthwith disperse and depart; and in case any One or more of the Persons so met or assembled together as aforesaid shall not disperse and depart within the Space of One Quarter of an Hour from the Time of such Notice or Command being given, it shall be lawful for the same or any Two of the same Justices of the Peace then present to cause the Person or Persons so refusing or neglecting to disperse or depart to be apprehended and brought before them; or in case such Person or Persons cannot then be apprehended, such Person or Persons may be afterwards apprehended by a Warrant for that Purpose to be granted by any Two Justices of the Peace within whose Jurisdiction such unlawful Association, Assembly, or Meeting shall have been held, or such Offender or Offenders shall be found; and such Offender or Offenders shall thereupon be proceeded against in a summary Way for such Offence before any Two Justices of the Peace before whom he or

they may be brought, who are hereby authorized to hear and determine the said Complaint; and every Person being convicted thereof, either on the View of One of the Justices to whom such Proclamation or Order shall have been so given or transmitted as aforesaid, or on his own Confession, or on the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, shall be committed to any One of His Majesty's Common Gaols or Prisons in *Ireland* for the Term of Three Calendar Months, and for a Second or any subsequent Offence against the Provisions of this Act, for the Term of One whole Year.

For the Purposes of this Act, Justices may act beyond their Jurisdictions.

V. And be it further enacted, That every Justice of the Peace to whom any Proclamation or Order made in pursuance of this Act shall be given or transmitted for the Purpose of being enforced, shall, for all the Purposes of this Act, as well of Conviction as otherwise, be empowered to act as a Justice of the Peace within every County, City, Town, or Place whatsoever throughout *Ireland*.

Penalty on Owner of Premises permitting any such Assembly to be held therein.

VI. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall knowingly permit or suffer any Meeting of any Association, Assembly, or Body of Persons, the Meeting whereof has been or shall have been prohibited or suppressed under or by virtue of this Act, to be held in any House, Building, Close, or other Place to such Person belonging, or under his Care or Controul, such Person for every such Offence shall forfeit to His Majesty the Sum of One hundred Pounds, to be recovered, with Costs of Suit, by Information to be filed in the Name of His Majesty's Attorney General in His Majesty's Court of Exchequer in *Ireland*.

Penalty on Persons contributing or soliciting others to contribute to Associations.

VII. And be it further enacted, That in case any Person shall, after the Commencement of this Act, pay or contribute, or compel, procure, or solicit any other Person to pay or contribute, any Sum or Sums of Money, or other valuable Thing, to the Association hereinbefore declared to be suppressed, or to any Association or Assembly of Persons which shall be hereafter prohibited or suppressed under and by virtue of this Act, after such Prohibition or Suppression thereof, or to any Person or Persons whomsoever, by the Order or Appointment or to the Use of any such Associations respectively, or acting for or on behalf of such Associations respectively, or of any Committee or any Members thereof, as such Members, or for or towards any Purpose, Object, or Design of any such Associations or Assemblies respectively, or of any Committee or any Members thereof, as such Members, or for or towards any Purpose, Object, or Design of any such Association or Assembly, every Person so paying or contributing, or so compelling, procuring, or soliciting as aforesaid, under any Pretext or Device whatsoever, shall forfeit and pay, as a Penalty for such Offence, Treble the Amount of the Sum or Sums or of the Value of the Things so by him contributed and paid, or so by him compelled, procured, or solicited to be paid or contributed as aforesaid, against the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, or the Sum of Ten Pounds, at the Election of His Majesty's Attorney General for *Ireland*; which said Sum so forfeited as afore-

said

said shall be payable to and recoverable by any Person for that Purpose to be named by His Majesty's said Attorney General, upon Information to be laid before any Two Justices of the Peace acting for the County, City, Town, or Place wherein such last-mentioned Offence shall be committed.

Money, &c. contributed to be forfeited.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the whole of the Sums of Money or of the Value of such other Things, so paid and contributed as aforesaid against the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall belong to and be the Monies and Property of His Majesty, and the same, or the Value thereof, shall become and be deemed to be a Debt due to His Majesty from the Person or Persons receiving or otherwise having the same, to be recovered by Information, to be filed in the Name of His Majesty's said Attorney General, in the same Manner as other Monies had and received to the Use of His Majesty are recoverable by Law.

For discovering the Amount of Monies, &c. contributed.

IX. And, for the better Discovery of the Amount of the Monies or other valuable Things so paid and contributed against the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, be it further enacted, That every Person so receiving or otherwise having the same shall be obliged and compellable to answer, upon Oath, any Information filed in the Name of His Majesty's said Attorney General for Discovery of the same, and shall not, by Plea, Demurrer, or otherwise, protect himself from giving Answer thereto.

Form of Conviction.

X. And be it further enacted, That any Conviction by any Justices of the Peace for any Offence committed, or any Penalty or Sum recoverable under this Act, shall and may be in the Form following, or in any Words to the like Effect, as the Case may require; (that is to say,)

' } BE it remembered, That on the Day of ,
' to wit. } in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred
' and , at in the County of ,
' *A. O.* of in the County of is convicted
' before us, Two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the
' County of , For that he the said *A. O.* did not depart
' within One Quarter of an Hour after Command had been given by
' us [*if the convicting Justices be not the same, state by whom the*
' *Command was given*] for that Purpose to an Assembly or Meeting
' of Persons prohibited by a Proclamation of the Lord Lieutenant
' or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland*, made on the
' Day of , and which Proclamation we [*to be*
' *altered as before, according to the Fact,*] were ordered to enforce;
' for which Offence the said *A. O.* is hereby adjudged by us, by force
' of the Statute made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of King *George*
' the Fourth, to be committed to His Majesty's Gaol at
' in and for , to be there imprisoned for the Term
' of Three Calendar Months. [*In case of a Second Conviction, say,*
' for the Term of One whole Year, he the said *A. O.* having been
' previously convicted of another Offence against the said Statute.]
' Given, *et cetera.* [*Or*, For that he the said *A. O.* did pay and con-

'tribute, or did compel or did procure or did solicit one *E. F.* to 'pay or to contribute, the Sum of , or Property 'of the Value of [*if the Case be so*], to the 'Association suppressed by an Act made and passed in the Tenth 'Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth; [*or, if the Case be 'so*, to an Association prohibited or suppressed under and by virtue 'of an Act made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of King *George* 'the Fourth, against the Force of the said Act;] wherefore we do 'adjudge that he the said *A. O.* hath forfeited the Sum of '£ , being Treble the Value of the Sum so paid and 'contributed, or so compelled or procured or solicited by him to be 'paid or contributed, [*or, if the Case be so*, the Sum of Ten Pounds, 'being the Sum elected by His Majesty's Attorney General,] and 'that he do pay the same to . Given under our 'Hands, *et cetera.*]'

Convictions not removable.

XI. And be it further enacted, That any Conviction under this Act shall not be removable by Certiorari or otherwise, but the same shall be binding and conclusive to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever: Provided always, that a Copy of every Conviction under this Act, and of the Evidence under which the same proceeded, shall within One Week after the same has taken place be returned to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of *Ireland.*

Copy thereof to be returned to the Lord Lieutenant.

Regulating Proceedings against Persons acting under this Act.

XII. And be it further enacted, That every Prosecution, Action, and Suit which shall be brought or commenced against any Justice or Justices of the Peace, Constable, Peace Officer, or other Person or Persons, for any thing done or acted in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within Three Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and the Venue in every such Action or Suit shall be laid in the proper County where the Fact was committed, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in every such Suit or Action shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and if such Prosecution, Action, or Suit shall be brought or commenced after the Time limited for bringing the same, or the Venue shall be laid in any other Place than as aforesaid, then the Jury shall find a Verdict for the Traverser or Traversers or Defendant or Defendants; and in such Case, or if the Jury shall find a Verdict for the Defendant or Defendants upon the Merits, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his or their Action after Appearance, or if upon Demurrer Judgment shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, the Defendant or Defendants shall have Double Costs, which he or they shall and may recover in such and the same Manner as any Defendant can by Law in other Cases.

Act may be amended this Session.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

XIV. And

Commencement and Continuance of Act.

XIV. And be it enacted, That this Act shall commence and be of force from and after the Expiration of Ten Days from and after the passing thereof, and not sooner; and that so much thereof as relates to the Catholic Association shall be perpetual, and the Residue thereof shall continue in force for One Year from the Day of passing this Act, and until the End of the then next Session of Parliament.

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