

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XXX.

An Act for preventing frivolous and vexatious Actions of Assault and Battery, and for slanderous Words, in Courts. [23d *May* 1818.]

WHEREAS it is desirable to prevent, as much as may be, frivolous and vexatious Actions and Suits of Assault and Battery, and for slanderous Words, in inferior Courts; 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 passing of this Act, in all Actions or Suits of Trespass for Assault and Battery, to be commenced in any Court having, or which by His Majesty's Writ of *Justicies*, may have Jurisdiction to hold Pleas in Actions or Suits to the Amount of Forty Shillings (other than His Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, the Court of Great Sessions for the Principality of *Wales*, the Court of Great Sessions for the County Palatine of *Chester*, the Court of Common Pleas for the County Palatine of *Lancaster*, or the Court of Pleas for the County Palatine of *Durham*), if the Jury upon the Trial of the Issue in such Action, or the Jury that shall inquire of the Damages, do find or assess the Damages under Forty Shillings, then the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action or Suit shall have and recover only so much Costs as the Damages so given or assessed amount unto, without any further Increase of the same; any Law, Statute, Custom, or Usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

In Actions of Trespass for Assault, if Damages are given under 40s. Plaintiff to recover only so much Costs as Damages so given.

II. And be it further enacted, That in all Actions or Suits of Assault and Battery, or for slanderous Words, to be sued or prosecuted in any Court

If Damages be laid under 40s. and the

Jury ſhall aſſeſs Damages under 30s. the Plaintiff ſhall recover only Coſts to the Amount of Damages given.

Court whatſoever which hath not Juriſdiction to hold Plea to the Amount of Forty Shillings, in ſuch Actions or Suits, if the Jury upon the Trial of the Iſſue in ſuch Action or Suit, or the Jury that ſhall inquire of the Damages do find or aſſeſs the Damages under Thirty Shillings, then the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in ſuch Action or Suit ſhall have and recover only ſo much Coſts as the Damages ſo given or aſſeſſed ſhall amount to, without any further Increaſe of the ſame; any Law, Statute, Cuſtom, or Uſage to the contrary notwithſtanding.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1818.