CAP. XV.

An Act to limit the Time of taking the Poll in Counties at contested Elections for Knights of the Shire to serve in Parliament in *England* and *Wales* to One Day. [18th *March* 1853.]

'WHEREAS it is expedient to restrict the Continuance of the Polling at every contested 'Election of a Knight or Knights to serve in Parliament for any County, or for any 'Riding, Parts, or Division of a County, to One Day:' Be it therefore 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,

Provisions of 2 & 3 W. 4. c. 45. relating to Duration of Poll repealed.

I. That so much of the Act passed in the Second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *William* the Fourth, Chapter Forty-five, as authorizes the Continuance of the Polling at every such contested Election as aforesaid for Two Days, and the Duties of the Sheriff's Deputy and Poll Clerks at such Poll during those Days, and fixes the Commencement and limits the Hours of Polling on such Days, and prevents the Commencement of such Polling on a *Saturday*, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Regulating Time for Polling at Elections for Knights of the Shire.

II. At every contested Election of a Knight or Knights to serve in any Parliament after the First Day of *October* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three for any County, or for any Riding, Parts, or Division of a County, the Polling shall continue for One Day only, and the Poll shall commence at Eight o'Clock in the Morning and be kept open until Five in the Afternoon of such Day, and the Poll Clerks to be employed at the principal Place of Election and other Places shall, at the final Close of the Day's Poll, enclose and seal their several Books, and shall publicly deliver them, so enclosed and sealed, to the Sheriff, Under Sheriff, or Sheriff's Deputy presiding at such Poll, and every such Deputy who shall have received any such Poll Books shall forthwith deliver or transmit the same, so enclosed and sealed, to the Sheriff or his Under Sheriff, who shall receive and keep all the Poll Books unopened until the re-assembling of the Court on the Day next but One after the Close of the Poll, unless such next Day but One shall be *Sunday*, and then until the *Monday* following, when he shall openly break the Seals thereon, and cast up the Number of Votes as they appear on the said several Books, and shall openly declare the State of the Poll, and shall make Proclamation of the Member or Members chosen not later than Two o'Clock in the Afternoon of the said Day, any Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 70. of 2 & 3 W. 4. c. 45. to remain applicable to Elections.

III. The Provisions concerning the Adjournment of the Poll in Cases of Riot or open Violence, and other the Provisions of Section Seventy of the said Act of the Second Year of King *William* the Fourth, shall be and remain applicable to every such contested Election as aforesaid, as if the said Section were re-enacted in this Act, the Words "the Day of Polling" being substituted therein for the Words "One of the Two Days of Polling."