ANNO VICESIMO NONO

CAROLI II. REGIS.

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An Act for the better Observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called *Sunday*.

FOR the better Observation and keeping holy the Lord's Day, commonly called *Sunday*, be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all the Laws enacted and in force concerning the Observation of the Lord's Day, and repairing to the Church thereon, be carefully put in execution; and that all and every Person and Persons whatsoever shall, on every Lord's Day, apply themselves to the Observation of the same by exercising themselves thereon in the Duties of Piety and true Religion publicly and privately; and that no Tradesman, Artificer, Workman, Labourer, or other Person whatsoever shall do or exercise any worldly Labour, Business, or Work of their ordinary Callings upon the Lord's Day or any Part thereof (Works of Necessity and Charity only excepted); and that every Person being of the Age of Fourteen Years or upwards, offending in the Premises, shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Five Shillings; and that no Person or Persons whatsoever shall publicly cry, show forth, or expose to Sale any Wares, Merchandises, Fruit, Herbs, Goods, or Chattels whatsoever, upon the

Tradesmen, Artificers, and Labourers.

None shall cry or expose to Sale Wares, &c.

Lord's Day, or any Part thereof, upon pain that every Person so offending shall forfeit the same Goods so cried, or showed forth, or exposed to Sale.

Drovers, Horse-coursers, Waggoners, Butchers, and Higlers. Boats and Barges.

II. And it is further enacted, That no Drover, Horse-courser, Waggoner, Butcher, Higler, their or any of their Servants, shall travel or come into his or their Inn or Lodging upon the Lord's Day or any Part thereof, upon pain that each and every such Offender shall forfeit Twenty Shillings for every such Offence; and that no Person or Persons shall use, employ, or travel upon the Lord's Day with any Boat, Wherry, Lighter, or Barge except it be upon extraordinary Occasion, to be allowed by some Justice of the Peace of the County, or Head Officer, or some Justice of the Peace of the City, Borough, or Town Corporate where the Fact shall be committed, upon pain that every Person so offending shall forfeit and lose the Sum of Five Shillings for every such Offence; and that if any Person offending in any of the Premises shall be thereof convicted before any Justice of the Peace of the County, or the Chief Officer or Officers, or any Justice of the Peace of or within any City, Borough, or Town Corporate where the said Offence shall be committed, upon his or their View, or Confession of the Party, or Proof of any One or more Witnesses by Oath, (which the said Justices, Chief Officer or Officers, is by this Act authorized to administer,) the said Justice or Chief Officer or Officers shall give Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal to the Constables or Churchwardens of the Parish or Parishes where such Offence shall be committed to seize the said Goods cried, showed forth, or put to Sale as aforesaid and to sell the same, and to levy the said other Forfeitures or Penalties by way of Distress and Sale of the Goods of every such Offender distrained, rendering to the said Offenders the Overplus of the Monies raised thereby; and in default of such Distress, or in case of Insufficiency or Inability of the said Offender to pay the said Forfeitures or Penalties, that then the Party offending be set publicly in the Stocks by the Space of Two Hours; and all and singular the Forfeitures or Penalties aforesaid shall be employed and converted to the Use of the Poor of the Parish where the said Offences shall be committed; saving only, that it shall and may be lawful to and for any such Justice, Mayor, or Head Officer or Officers, out of the said Forfeitures or Penalties, to reward any Person or Persons that shall inform of any Offence against this Act according to their Discretions, so as such Reward exceed not the Third Part of the Forfeitures or Penalties.

In what Manner the Conviction shall be.

Penalty how to be levied.

In case of Insufficiency the Offender shall be set in the Stocks.

The Forfeitures how to be disposed of.

A Provision for private Families, Victualling Houses, &c.

III. Provided, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to the prohibiting of dressing of Meat in Families, or dressing or selling of Meat in Inns, Cook Shops, or Victualling Houses, for such as otherwise cannot be provided, nor to the crying or selling of Milk before Nine of the Clock in the Morning, or after Four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

The Prosecution to be within Ten Days.

IV. Provided also, That no Person or Persons shall be impeached, prosecuted, or molested for any Offence before mentioned in this Act, unless he or they be prosecuted for the same within Ten Days after the Offence committed.

The Hundred not responsible for Robberies on the Lord's Day.

V. Provided, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever, which shall travel upon the Lord's Day, shall be then robbed, that no Hundred, or the Inhabitants thereof,

thereof, shall be charged with or answerable for any Robbery so committed, but the Person or Persons so robbed shall be barred from bringing any Action for the said Robbery, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding: Nevertheless, the Inhabitants of the Counties and Hundreds (after Notice of any such Robbery to them or some of them given, or after Hue and Cry for the same to be brought,) shall make or cause to be made fresh Suit and Pursuit after the Offenders with Horsemen and Footmen, according to the Statute made in the Twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, upon pain of forfeiting to the King's Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, as much Money as might have been recovered against the Hundred by the Party robbed if this Law had not been made.

But shall make fresh Suit after the Offenders.

27 Eliz. c. 13.

VI. Provided also, That no Person or Persons upon the Lord's Day shall serve or execute, or caused to be served or executed, any Writ, Process, Warrant, Order, Judgment, or Decree, (except in Cases of Treason, Felony, or Breach of the Peace,) but that the Service of every such Writ, Process, Warrant, Order, Judgment or Decree shall be void to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever; and the Person or Persons so serving or executing the same shall be as liable to the Suit of the Party grieved, and to answer Damages to him for doing thereof, as if he or they had done the same, without any Writ, Process, Warrant, Order, Judgment, or Decree at all.

Service of Process on the Lord's Day shall be void.

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