Treason Act (Ireland) 1537

Chapter 7

An Act of Slaunder.[1] Rot. Parl. cap. 8.

Where in a Parliament begun at London in England, the third day of November, the xxi. year of the raign of our most dread soveraign lord King Henry the eighth, King of England and of France, defendor of the faith, Lord of Ireland, and supream head in earth of the church of England, and from thence adjourned to Westminster, and by divers prorogations there holden and continued, it was and is enacted amongst other things, in manner and form as followeth: Forasmuch as it is most necessary, both for common policie and duetie of subjects, above all things, to prohibit, provide, restrain, and extinct all manner of shameful slaunders, perills, or iminent danger or dangers which might grow, happen or rise to their soveraign Lord the King, the Queen and their heyers, which when they be heard, seen, or understood, cannot be but odible, and also abhorred of all those sorts, that be true and loving subjects, if in any point they may doe or shall touch the King, his Queen, their heyres and successors, upon which dependeth the whole unitie, and the universall weal of this realm, without providing wherefore too great a stop of unreasonable libertie should be given to all cankred and trayterous hearts, workers and willers of the same, and also the King's loving subjects should not declare unto their soveraign Lord now being (which unto them hath been, and is most entirely both beloved and esteemed) their undoubted sincerity and truth.

Slandering the King, Queen, or heirs apparent by words or writing, wishing, or practising any harm to them, or to their dignity, &c. rebelliously detaining any of the King's fortresses, ships, artillery, &c. treason.

[I.] If any person or persons, . . .[2] doe maliciously wish, will, or desire, by words, or writing, or by craft, imagin, invent, practise, or attempt, any bodily harm to be done or committed to the King's most royal person, the Queen, or their heyres apparent, or to deprive them, or any of them, of the dignitie, title, or name of their royal estates, or slaunderously and maliciously publish and pronounce by express writ-

ing, or words, that the King our soveraign lord should be heretick, schismatick, tyrant, infidell, or usurper of the crown, or rebelliously doth detain, keep, or withhold from our said soveraign Lord, his heyers or successors, any of his or their fortresses, fortilesses or holds, within this realm, or any other the King's dominions or marches, or rebelliously detain, keep, or withhold from the King's said Highness, his heyres or successors, any of his or their ships, ordinances, artillery, or other munitions or fortifications of war, and doe not humbly render and give up to our said soveraign Lord, his heyres or successors, or to such persons as shall be deputed by them, such castles, fortresses, fortilesses, holds, ships, ordnances, artillery, and other munitions and fortifications of war rebelliously kept, or detayned, within sixe dayes next after they shall be commanded, by our said soveregn Lord, his heyres and successors, by open proclamations under the great seale: that then every such person and persons so offending in any of the premisses, . . .[2] their aydors, counsaylors, consentors, and abbettors, being thereof lawfully convicted, according to the laws and customes of this realm, shall be adjudged traditours; and that every such offence in any the premisses that shall be committed or done . . .[2] shall be reputed, accepted, and adjudged high treason, and the offendors therein, and their aydors, consentors, counsailors, and abbettors, being lawfully convict of any such offence as is aforesaid, shall have and suffer such paines of death and other penalties, as is limited and accustomed in cases of high treason.

S.II rep. by SLR (I) 1879. Ss.III, IV rep. by SLR (I) 1879; 1951 c.24 (NI) s.2 sch. Pt.II. Ss.V, VI rep. by SLR (I) 1879

References

1. Short title "The Treason Act (Ireland) 1537", 1951 c.1 (NI)
2. Rep., SLR 1953