ANNO DECIMO & UNDECIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

****

C A P. LXXXIV.

An Act to make Provision for the Punishment of Vagrants and Persons offending against the Laws in force for the Relief of the destitute Poor in *Ireland*. [22d *July* 1847.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to make further Provision for the Punishment of Beggars and Vagrants and Persons offending against the Laws in force for the Relief of the destitute Poor in *Ireland;* 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, That so much of an Act passed in the Second Year of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act for the more effectual Relief of the destitute Poor in* Ireland, as provides for the Punishment of Persons deserting and leaving their Wives or any Children whom such Persons may be liable to maintain, so that such Wives or Children should become destitute and be relieved in the Workhouse of a Union, shall be repealed.

So much of 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56. as provides for the Punishment of Persons deserting their Wives and Children repealed.

II. And be it enacted, That every Person who shall desert or wilfully neglect to maintain his Wife or any Child whom he may be liable to maintain, so that such Wife or Child shall become destitute and be relieved in or out of the Workhouse of any Union in *Ireland,*

Punishment of Persons deserting or wilfully neglecting to maintain

shall

their Wives or Children.

shall on Conviction thereof before any Justice of the Peace be committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Punishment of Persons wandering abroad, or begging in public Places, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That every Person wandering abroad and begging, or placing himself in any public Place, Street, Highway, Court, or Passage to beg or gather Alms, or causing or procuring or encouraging any Child or Children so to do, and every Person who, having been resident in any Union in *Ireland*, shall go from such Union to some other Union, or from one Electoral or Relief District to another Electoral or Relief District in *Ireland*, for the Purpose of obtaining Relief in such last-mentioned Union or District, shall on Conviction thereof before any Justice of the Peace, if such Justice shall think fit, be committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction, there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding One Calendar Month.

Power to apprehend Persons offending against this Act without Warrant.

IV. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Person whatsoever to apprehend any Person whom he shall find offending against this Act, and to take and convey such Offender as soon as may be reasonably practicable before any Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with as is herein-before provided, or to deliver him to any Constable or other Peace Officer of the County or Place wherein he shall have been apprehended to be so taken and conveyed as aforesaid; and it shall be the Duty of every Constable or Peace Officer to take into his Custody every such Offender so delivered to him, and to take and convey such Offender before a Justice of the Peace as soon as may be reasonably practicable, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Warrants may be issued for Apprehension of Persons.

V. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, upon Proof that any Person hath committed any of the Offences herein-before mentioned, to issue his Warrant to apprehend such Offender, and to bring him before the same or some other Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with as is directed by this Act.

Proceedings not to be quashed for Want of Form, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That no Proceeding by or before any Justice of the Peace under the Provisions of this Act shall be quashed for Want of Form, or shall be removable into any of Her Majesty's Superior Courts by Writ of Certiorari; and every Conviction under this Act shall be in the Form or to the Effect following, or as near thereto as Circumstances will permit; (that is to say,)

Form of Conviction.

'to wit. } BE it remembered, That on the Day of in the Year of our Lord at in the County of *A.B.* is convicted before me, *C.D.*, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, of an Offence against the Statute made in the Tenth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to make Provision for the Punishment of Vagrants and "Persons offending against the Laws in force for the Relief of the "destitute Poor in Ireland;" (that is to say,) for that the said *A.B.* on the Day of at in the said

'said County [*here state the Offence proved before the Magistrate*], and
'for which said Offence the said *A. B.* is adjudged to be committed
'to the House of Correction at there to be
'kept to hard Labour for the Space of .

'Given under my Hand and Seal the Day, Year, and at the Place
'first above written.'

Conviction to be transmitted to next Petty or Quarter Sessions.

VII. And be it enacted, That the Justice of the Peace before whom any such Conviction shall take place shall transmit the same to the Petty Sessions then next ensuing to be holden for the District in which such Conviction shall have taken place, and if there shall be no such Petty Sessions then to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden in and for the County, County of a City, or County of a Town, or Place, wherein such Conviction has taken place, there to be filed and kept on record.

Interpretation of Act.

VIII. And be it enacted, That in the Construction of this Act every Word importing the Singular Number or Masculine Gender only shall, except where the Context excludes such Construction, be understood to include and shall be applied to several Persons, Matters, or Things as well as one Person, Matter, or Thing, and to Females as well as Males respectively; and that the Word "Justice" shall be understood to include and extend to any Justice of the Peace or Magistrate of a County, County of a City, or County of a Town, or of any City or Town Corporate; and that the Word "Constable" shall be understood to include all Chief and other Constables and Sub-constables appointed under any Act relating to the Constabulary Force of *Ireland*, or for the Regulation of the Police District of *Dublin*.

Act may be amended, &c.

IX. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this Session of Parliament.

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