CHAPTER 57.

An Act to amend the Law respecting the holding of Winter Assizes.

[11th August 1876.]

WHEREAS it is usual to hold winter assizes in some counties, and not to hold them in other counties in which there are but few prisoners awaiting trial, and it is expedient to provide for the more speedy trial of such last-mentioned prisoners:

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, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Winter Assizes Act, 1876.

Power by Order in Council to unite counties for purpose of winter assizes.

2. Where it appears to Her Majesty that by reason of the small number of prisoners or otherwise it is usually inexpedient to hold separate winter assizes for any county, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by Order in Council from time to time to provide in such manner and subject to such regulations as to Her Majesty may seem meet for all or any of the following matters:

(1.) For uniting such county for the purpose of winter assizes to any neighbouring county or counties; and

(2.) For the appointment of the place or places at which winter assizes are to be held for such united counties, with power to direct that they shall be held at different places in different years; and

(3.) For the jurisdiction of the court and the attendance, jurisdiction, authority, and duty of sheriffs, gaolers, officers, jurors, and persons, the use of any prison, the removal of prisoners, the alteration of any commissions, writs, precepts, indictments, recognizances, proceedings, and documents, the transmission of recognizances, inquisitions, and documents, and the expenses of prosecutors and witnesses, and of maintaining and removing prisoners, so far as may seem to Her Majesty necessary for carrying into effect an Order in Council under this Act; and

(4.) For any matters which appear to Her Majesty to be necessary or proper for carrying into effect an Order in Council under this Act.

An Order in Council purporting to be made in pursuance of this Act shall be deemed to be within the powers of this Act, and shall while it is in force have effect as if it were enacted in this Act, and for all the purposes of the holding of the winter assizes the counties united by the Order shall, subject to the provisions of the Order, be deemed to be one county, and the winter assizes held in and for such united county shall be deemed also to be held in and for each of the constituent counties.

Provision as to Order in Council.

3. Her Majesty may from time to time by Order in Council revoke, alter, or add to any Order made in pursuance of this Act.

Every Order in Council made in pursuance of this Act shall be published in the London Gazette and laid before both Houses of Parliament within one month after it is made, if Parliament is then sitting, and if not, within one month after the then next meeting of Parliament.

Application of existing Acts as to alteration of circuits.

4. All enactments relating to the power of Her Majesty to alter the circuits of the judges, or places at which assizes are holden, or otherwise relating to assizes and circuits, shall apply and may be put in force for the purpose of carrying into effect this Act or any Order made thereunder.

Provision for neighbouring counties to Central Criminal Court district.

5. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time by Order in Council to direct that, subject to any exceptions contained in the Order, the jurisdiction of the justices and judges of the Central Criminal Court at any session of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery held for the Central Criminal Court district in the months of November, December, or January shall extend to any neighbouring county or part of a county mentioned in the Order as if such county or part of a county were included within th

limits of the Central Criminal Court district, and to apply, with such modifications and exceptions (if any) as to Her Majesty may seem fit, the Central Criminal Court Act to the said county or part of a county and offences committed therein as if the same were a county or part of a county mentioned in that Act.

An Order in Council purporting to be made in pursuance of this section shall be deemed to be within the powers of this Act, and shall, while it is in force, have effect as if it were enacted in this Act.

6. In this Act— Definitions.

The expression "winter assizes" means any court of assize or any sessions of oyer and terminer or gaol delivery held in the month of November, the month of December, or the month of January.

The expression "Central Criminal Court district" means the district within the limits of the Act of the session of the fourth and fifth years of the reign of King William the Fourth, chapter thirty-six, intituled "An Act for establishing a new court for "the trial of offences committed in the metropolis and parts adjoining;" and the expression "Central Criminal Court Act" means the last-mentioned Act.

The expression "county" in this Act shall include any county of a city or county of a town, and any such division of any county as is constituted by Order in Council under the Act passed in the third and fourth years of King William the Fourth, chapter seventy-one, and intituled "An Act for the appointment of convenient places "for the holding of Assizes in England and Wales."

CHAPTER 58.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Parochial Records.

[11th August 1876.]

WHEREAS doubts have arisen as to whether the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, Amendment Act, 1875, applies to marriage register books kept in duplicate under 7 & 8 Vict. c. 81. by the officiating ministers of the Church in the said Act referred to as the Church of Ireland, or in this Act referred to as the said Church; and it is desirable that said doubts should be removed, and the said books excluded from the operation of the said Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, Amendment Act, 1875:

And whereas books called or known as "vestry books," containing entries relating to matters other than baptisms, burials, and marriages, have been kept in many parishes in Ireland, and it is desirable that same should not be removed from said parishes, and accordingly that same should not be deemed "records" within the meaning of the said last-mentioned Act:

And whereas many parishes contain fit and secure buildings for the safe custody of their records, and other parishes may hereafter construct or obtain such fit and secure buildings, and it is desirable to give the Master of the Rolls in Ireland special powers to deal with such cases:

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, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Parochial Records Act, 1876. Short title.

2. The description "Master of the Rolls" shall mean "Master of the Rolls of Ireland." Interpretation.

3. The Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, Amendment Act, 1875, and this Act, shall be read and construed together as one Act. Act to be read with other Acts.

4. The term "record" in the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, Amendment Act, 1875, shall not mean or be held to apply to any marriage register books kept pursuant to the provisions of "the Act for Marriages in Ireland" (7 & 8 Vict. c. 81.), nor to any vestry books which contain entries exclusively relating to matters other than baptisms, "Record" in 38 & 39 Vict. c. 59. shall not include marriage or