

the charge and management of any engine or engines in the said Towns, or either of them, as all other persons whomsoever.

Constables to attend at fires, report themselves to, and obey the Firewards.

VI. And be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, upon every alarm of fire in the said Towns, or in their vicinities, either in the night or day time, it shall be the duty of every Constable resident within the said Towns, or in their immediate vicinities, knowing of such alarm, immediately to repair (with a staff to be provided by the Firewards for that purpose, as hereinafter directed) to the place where the fire may be, and there to report himself to some one or more of the Firewards there present, or if no Fireward be present on his arrival, then to the first Fireward that shall thereafter arrive at the fire, and to place himself under the immediate orders and directions of such Firewards, and to use his utmost exertions to aid and assist the said Firewards, and to obey and carry into effect all orders and directions that may be given to him by the said Firewards, or any of them, during such fire.

Penalty imposed on Constables for neglect of duty.

VII. And be it enacted, That for every refusal or neglect by any Constable resident in either of the said Towns, or in their immediate vicinities, respectively to perform and fulfil any of the duties by this Act imposed upon him, such Constable shall forfeit and pay the sum of forty shillings, together with the costs of recovering the same, to be recovered upon conviction before any one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Northumberland, on the oath of a Fireward or any other credible witness, and on refusal to pay the same, to be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, and for want of sufficient distress, such offender shall suffer eight days imprisonment, unless the penalty and costs shall be sooner paid; which penalty, when recovered, shall be paid into the hands of the Firewards of the proper Town, or their Treasurer for the time being, to be applied by them towards defraying the necessary expenses attending the keeping the engine or engines of the said Town in a proper state of repair and equipment, and other necessary expenses attending the keeping the Fire Companies of the said Town in an efficient state.

Recovery.

Application.

Staves for the Constables to be provided by the Firewards, and kept in a convenient place.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the said Firewards are hereby respectively authorized and required to provide a sufficient number of such proper and necessary staves for the Constables hereinbefore mentioned, as the said Firewards, or the major part of them, may deem most fit and convenient for the said Constables to carry with them at all times of their attendance at fires, as hereinbefore directed; which staves shall be kept at such convenient place or places as the said Firewards, or the major part of them, may direct, to be in readiness at all times when required.

Any person disobeying a Fireward, &c. may be committed to gaol.

IX. And be it enacted, That at and during the raging or continuation of any fire that may hereafter happen in either of the said Towns, or in its immediate vicinity, if any person or persons shall refuse or wilfully omit to obey the orders of any Fireward of such Town there present, for his falling into line, or shall leave the same without the consent of any such Fireward there present, or for his doing any other act that such Fireward may think necessary and direct towards aiding and assisting in extinguishing such fires, or in preserving any property endangered by such fire, or who shall be guilty of any disorderly conduct in defiance of the orders of any such Fireward there present, or shall in any way wilfully obstruct or endeavour to obstruct the carrying into effect any orders or regulations that may be then given or made by such Fireward then present for the better extinguishing of such fire; such Firewards present, or any of them, shall have full power, and he or they are hereby authorized, if he or they see fit, to order any Constable present forthwith to take such offender or offenders into custody, and convey such offender or offenders, if such Firewards or any of them see fit, to the Common Gaol of the County of Northumberland; and the gaoler of such gaol is hereby required to keep such offender or offenders in close confinement, until delivered in manner hereafter mentioned; and the Fireward or Firewards who may have committed any such offender, shall immediately after such fire shall be extinguished, and, at the latest within twenty four hours, cause such offender or offenders to be brought up by the gaoler or other person appointed for that purpose, before any of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County of Northumberland, (not being a Fireward,) to answer for such offence; and upon conviction before such Justice of the Peace, of such offence, on the oath of a Fireward, or any other credible witness, such offender shall forfeit and pay the sum of thirty shillings, together with the costs of recovering the same, to be levied by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, and

After the fire, offender to be brought before a Magistrate.

Penalty on conviction.

Recovery.