

CHAPTER V.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PUBLIC PEACE.

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ART. 1.

Unlawful Assemblies continuing together after Proclamation to disperse.

If any persons to the number of twelve or more, being unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, to the disturbance of the public peace, and being required or commanded by the Sheriff or his Under Sheriff, or any Justice of the Peace of the County, or by the Mayor or other head Officer for the time being, or any Justice of the Peace of any City or Town Corporate, where such assembly shall be, by Proclamation to be made in the form hereinafter in the next succeeding Article, directed to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, shall to the number of twelve or more, (notwithstanding such Proclamation made,) unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously remain or continue together by the space of one hour after such Proclamation shall have been made, every such offender shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

ART. 2.

Order and form of Proclamation.

The order and form of such Proclamation as is mentioned in the last preceding Article shall be as follows, (that is to say,) the person authorized by that Article to make such Proclamation shall, among the rioters, or as near as he can safely come, with a loud voice, command or cause to be commanded silence while Proclamation is making, and immediately after that shall openly and with a loud voice make or cause to be made Proclamation in the words following, or to the like effect:—‘Our Sovereign Lady the Queen charges and commands all persons ‘being here assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, or they will incur the penalty ‘of the Law against unlawful assemblies.—GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.’

ART. 3.

Obstructing persons making Proclamation.

Whosoever shall forcibly oppose or hurt, or in any manner hinder or obstruct any person lawfully making or endeavouring to make such Proclamation, as in the last two preceding Articles is mentioned, whereby such Proclamation shall not be made, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years.

ART. 4.

Not dispersing after Proclamation.

If any persons, to the number of twelve or more, being unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, to whom Proclamation should or ought to have been made if the same had not been obstructed or hindered, as in the last preceding Article is mentioned, shall, knowing of such obstruction and hindrance, continue together and not disperse themselves within one hour after such obstruction and hindrance made, any such offender shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, and shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years.

ART. 5.

Unlawful Assembly.

If three or more persons shall assemble, or having assembled, shall continue together with intent, without lawful authority, to execute any common purpose with force and violence, or in so violent and tumultuous a manner, and under such circumstances as are calculated to create terror and alarm amongst Her Majesty’s subjects, such persons shall be deemed to be guilty of an unlawful assembly, and each of them shall be liable to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding two years.

ART. 6.

Riotously pulling down Buildings, &c.

If any persons, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, to the disturbance of the public peace, shall unlawfully and with force, demolish, pull down or destroy, or begin to demolish, pull down, or destroy any church, chapel, or meeting house, for the exercise of any mode or form of Religious worship, or any house, stable, coach house, out house, warehouse, office, shop, mill, malt house, barn, or granary, or any building or erection used in carrying on any trade or