



ANNO DECIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

CAP. VII.

AN ACT to make provision for the protection of Electric Telegraphs.

[Passed 14th June, 1852.]

WHEREAS it is necessary to make better provision for the protection of Electric Telegraphs in this Colony : Preamble.

Be it therefore enacted, By the Governor, Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, that if any Person shall wilfully and maliciously, and to the prejudice of any Electric Telegraph authorized to be made or established by any Act of this Colony, whether now made or established or hereafter to be made or established, break, throw down, damage and destroy the same, or any part thereof, or any of the Station-Houses, Watch-Houses, Posts, Rails, Wire, Machine, Machinery, or any other Apparatus, Works or Devices, incidental or relative thereto or connected therewith, or do any other wilful hurt or mischief, or shall wilfully or maliciously obstruct and interrupt the free use of any Telegraph as aforesaid, or any of the appurtenances thereof, or obstruct, hinder or prevent the carrying on, completing, supporting, and maintaining, using and working of any Telegraph already made or established, or hereafter to be made or established, such Person shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and the Court by and before whom such Person shall be tried and convicted, shall have power and authority to sentence such Person to be Imprisoned for a period not exceeding One Year, with Hard Labour, any Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Persons wilfully or maliciously injuring any Electric Telegraph or appurtenances to be adjudged guilty of Felony.

II.—*And be it enacted*, That the Courts of Quarter Sessions of the District where any of the offences mentioned in the First Section shall be committed, shall have jurisdiction to try, convict, and sentence any offender or offenders, concurrently with Her Majesty's Superior Courts of Record in this Colony.

Court of Quarter Sessions to have jurisdiction over offences.

III.—*And be it enacted*, That for the more effectual apprehension of offenders, any Person found committing any offence against this Act, may be immediately apprehended, without a Warrant, by any Person, and forthwith taken before some neighbouring Justice of the Peace to be dealt with according to Law.

Offenders may be apprehended without Warrant.