

be made in the King's Name, in the Form by the said Act directed to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, shall, to the Number of Twelve or more, remain and continue together for the space of one Hour after such Proclamation made, then such continuing together shall be adjudged Felony without Benefit of the Clergy; and the Offenders shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy: And whereas by another Act passed in the Ninth Year of the Reign of his said late Majesty King George the First, intituled, An Act for the more effectual punishing wicked and evil disposed Persons going armed in Disguise, and doing Injuries and Violences to the Persons and Properties of his Majesty's Subjects, and for the more speedy bringing the Offenders to Justice, It is enacted amongst other things, That if any Person or Persons being armed with Swords, Fire Arms, or other offensive Weapons, and having his or their Faces blacked, or being otherwise disguised, shall appear in any Forest, Chase, Park, &c, or in any high Road, open Heath, Common, or Down, or shall cut down and destroy any Trees planted in any Avenue, or growing in any Garden, Orchard, or Plantation, for Ornament, Shelter, or Profit, or shall set Fire to any House, Barn, or Out-house, or to any Hovel, Cock, Mow, or Stack of Corn, Straw, Hay, or Wood, or shall wilfully and maliciously shoot at any Person in any Dwelling-house, or other Place, or shall forcibly rescue any Person, being lawfully in Custody of any Officer, or other Person, for any of the Offences aforesaid, every Person so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy; which said last mentioned Act is continued, and now in Force: And whereas by an Act of Parliament made in the Eighth Year of our Reign, intituled, An Act for rendering the Laws more effectual for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully and maliciously pull down or destroy Turnpikes for repairing Highways, or Locks, or other Works, erected by Act of Parliament, for making Rivers navigable, and for other Purposes therein mentioned, it is amongst other things enacted, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever, from and after the Fifteenth Day of May, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and thirty five, shall, either by Day or Night, wilfully or maliciously pull down, cut down, pluck up, throw down, level or otherwise destroy any Turnpike Gate or Turnpike Gates, or any Post or Posts, Rail or Rails, Wall or Walls, or any Chain, Bar, or other Fence or Fences belonging to any such Turnpike Gate or Turnpike Gates, or any other Chain, Bar, or Fence of any Kind whatsoever, set up or erected, or hereafter to be set up or erected, to prevent Passengers from passing by without paying any Toll laid and directed to be paid by any Act or Acts of Parliament already made, or

hereafter to be made, for that Purpose, or any House or Houses, erected or to be erected for the Use of any Turnpike Gate or Turnpike Gates, or forcibly rescue any Person or Persons, being lawfully in Custody of any Officer or other Person, for any of the Offences before mentioned; that then, and in any of the said Cases, every Person so offending, being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy: We therefore, being deeply sensible of the many mischievous Consequences which must inevitably ensue to the Peace of this our Kingdom, and the Properties of our loving Subjects, from such wicked and detestable Practices as have been of late committed in our said County of Hereford, are firmly resolved to cause the said Laws to be effectually put in Execution; and being desirous, out of our fatherly Tenderness to our People, that none of them should be ignorant of the same, nor unwarily subject themselves to the very heavy Penalties thereby inflicted: We have thought fit, with the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby strictly command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever do presume to commit or attempt any Act, Matter, or Thing whatsoever, contrary to the said Laws, and the true Intent and Meaning thereof: And that the said Laws be punctually observed and kept, upon Pain of the several Penalties by the said Laws inflicted upon Offenders against the same. And whereas the Names of several of the Persons concerned in the aforesaid wicked and detestable Practices have been already discovered, in order that they and the rest of the Persons therein concerned may receive such exemplary Punishment as their Crimes justly deserve; we do further strictly command and require all our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Under Sheriffs, and Civil Officers whatsoever, and all other our Subjects, that they do use their utmost Endeavours to discover and apprehend all such Persons as have been or shall be guilty of, or any wise concerned in, any of the Offences before mentioned, and that they do effectually put the said Laws in Execution. And in order to put a Stop to such wicked and abominable Practices, We do hereby promise and declare, that if any Person or Persons concerned in any of the Offences before mentioned which are capital, shall, before the Tenth Day of March next, discover any other Person or Persons who hath or have been guilty of any of the said capital Offences, upon or since the said Twentieth Day of September last, or if any Person or Persons concerned in any of the Offences before mentioned which are not capital, shall, before the said Tenth Day of March next, discover any other Person or Persons who hath or have been guilty of any of the Offences herein before mentioned (whether capital or not) upon or since the said Twentieth Day of September last, so as the