

and for want of sufficient Distress, the Offender to suffer one Months Imprisonment. *Provided always*, That if the House where the Fire did begin, and break out, shall be adjudged fit to be pulled down, or blown up, to hinder the Increase and further spreading of the same, that then the Owner of such House shall receive no manner of Satisfaction for the same, any thing herein contained to the contrary Notwithstanding.

That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justices of the Peace for the Town and County of *Halsfax*, from Time to Time, annually, to appoint such number of prudent Persons of known fidelity, not exceeding Ten, in the several Parts of the said Town and Suburbs, as they may think fit, who shall be denominated and called *Fire Wards*, and have a proper Badge assigned, to distinguish them in their Office, *viz* A Staff of six Feet in length, coloured *Red*, and Headed with a *bright Brass Spar* of six Inches long: And at Times of the breaking forth of Fire, and during the continuance thereof, shall and are hereby authorized and impowered, to command and require Assistance for the extinguishing and putting out the Fire, and for removing of Household Stuff and Furniture, Goods and Merchandizes, out of any Dwelling Houses, Storehouses or other Buildings actually on Fire, or in danger thereof, and Guards to secure and take care of the same, as also to require Assistance for the pulling down or blowing up of any Houses, or any other Service relating thereto, by direction of two or three of the Magistrates of the Town as aforesaid, to Stop and prevent the further spreading of the Fire, and to Suppress all Tumults and Disorders. And the Officers appointed, from Time to Time, as aforesaid, are required, upon the Notice of Fire breaking forth, (taking their Badge with them) immediately to repair to the Place, and vigorously exert their Authority for the requiring of Assistance, and using their utmost Endeavours to extinguish and prevent the spreading of the Fire, and to preserve and secure the Estate and Effects of the Inhabitants: And due Obedience is required to be yielded unto them and each of them accordingly, for that Service. And all disobedience, neglect, or refusal in any, shall be informed of, to some of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, within two Days next after, and the Offenders therein, upon Conviction thereof before any two of the Justices aforesaid (*Quorum unus*) shall forfeit and pay the Sum of *Forty Shillings* each, to be levied and distributed by the discretion of such Justices, among the Poor most distressed by the Fire. And in case the Offenders are unable to satisfy the Fine, then to suffer *Ten Days* Imprisonment.

That if any evil minded wicked Persons shall take the Advantage of such Calamity, to rob, plunder, purloin, embezzel, convey away, or conceal any Goods, Merchandize or Effects, of the distressed Inhabitants, whose Houses are on Fire, or endangred thereby, and put upon removing their Goods; and shall not restore, and give Notice thereof to the Owner or Owners, if known, or bring them into such Public Place as shall be appointed and assigned, by the Governour and Council, within the space of two Days next after Proclamation made for that purpose, the Person or Persons, so Offending, and being thereof convicted, shall be deemed Felons, and suffer Death, as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy—

*Robbing
Felonies
Clergy
Act*