

## C A P. IV.

## An ACT for appointing Firewards, ascertaining their Duty, and for punishing Thefts and Disorders at the Time or Fire.

\*\*\* E it Enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Assembly,  
 \* B \* That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justices of  
 \* \* \* the Peace for the Town and County of *Halifax*, from  
 \*\*\* Time to Time annually in their Sessions, to appoint such  
 Number of prudent Persons of known Fidelity, not exceeding Ten,  
 in the several Parts of the said Town of *Halifax*, and the Suburbs  
 thereof, as they may think fit, who shall be sworn faithfully to dis-  
 charge their Trust, and shall be denominated and called Firewards,  
 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 Spear of six Inches long.

Justices in Sessions  
 to appoint Ten Per-  
 sons to serve as Fire-  
 wards for *Halifax*.

II. *And be it further Enacted*, That at the Times of the breaking  
 forth of Fire in the said Town or Suburbs thereof, and during the  
 Continuance thereof, the said Firewards shall and are hereby authori-  
 zed and impowered, jointly or separately to command and require As-  
 sistance for the extinguishing and putting out the Fire, and for remo-  
 ving of Household Stuff, Furniture, Goods and Merchandizes, out  
 of any Dwelling Houses, Store Houses, or other Buildings actually  
 on Fire, or in Danger thereof, and to appoint Guards to secure and  
 take Care of the same: As also to require Assistance for the pulling  
 down of any Houses, or any other Services relating thereto, to stop  
 and prevent the further spreading of the Fire, and to suppress all Tu-  
 mults 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 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 for all  
 Disobedience, Neglect or Refusal in any Person, Information thereof  
 shall, within Two Days next thereafter, be given to any One of His  
 Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County and Town, and  
 upon Conviction thereof, before any two of the Justices aforesaid, each  
 and every Person so convicted shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Forty  
 Shillings, to be levied and distributed by the Direction of such Justi-  
 ces, among the Poor most distressed by the Fire; and in Case the Of-  
 fenders are unable to satisfy the Fine, then to suffer Ten Days Im-  
 prisonment.

Duty and Authority  
 of the Firewards.

Any Person dis-  
 obeying their Or-  
 ders at the Time of  
 Fires, forfeit 40s.