

BILL.

An Act to amend the Law respecting the office of
Coroner.

WHEREAS the regulations for holding Coroners' In- Preamble.
quests are insufficient, and it is desirable that some
remedy should be provided therefor:—Be it therefore
enacted, &c.

5 And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, In what cases
only Inquests
shall be held.
That from and after the passing of this Act, no Inquest
shall be holden on the body of any deceased person by
any Coroner, until it has been first made to appear to
such Coroner, by oath or affirmation, which oath or affirm-
10 ation the said Coroner is hereby authorized to administer,
that there is reason to believe that such deceased person
came to his death under such circumstances of violence
or unfair means as require investigation, and not through
any mere accident or mischance.

15 II. And be it enacted, That if any person, having been Penalty on
persons sum-
moned to at-
tend Inquests
and not atten-
ding.
duly summoned as a juror or witness to give evidence
upon any Coroner's Inquest, shall not, after being openly
called three times, appear and serve as such juror, or
appear and give evidence on such Inquest, every such
20 Coroner shall be empowered to impose such fine upon
any person so making default, as he shall think fit, not
exceeding *twenty shillings*; and every such Coroner shall
make out and sign a certificate, containing the name,
residence, trade or calling of such person so making
25 default, together with the amount of the fine imposed and
the cause of such fine, and shall transmit such certificate
to the Clerk of the Peace in the County in which such
defaulter shall reside, on or before the first day of the
Quarter Sessions of the Peace then next ensuing for such
30 last mentioned County, and shall cause a copy of such
certificate to be served upon the person so fined, by
leaving it at his residence, within a reasonable time after
such Inquest; and all fines and forfeitures so certified by
such Coroner shall be estreated, levied and applied in
35 like manner, and subject to the like powers, provisions and
penalties in all respects as if they had been part of the
fines imposed at such Quarter Sessions:—Provided Proviso.
always, that nothing herein contained, shall be construed
to affect any power now by law vested in any Coroner
40 for compelling any person to appear and give evidence
before him on any Inquest or other proceeding, or for