

CAP. V.

An Act for better proportioning the punishment to the offence, in certain cases, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

[12th October, 1842.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to enable the Courts, before whom offenders may be convicted in certain cases, better to proportion the punishment of such offenders to the guilt of the offence; Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, intituled *An Act to Re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that so much of a certain Act passed in the Session held in the fourth and fifth years of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled *An Act for improving the administration of Criminal Justice in this Province*, or of a certain other Act passed in the same Session, and intituled *An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws in this Province, relative to Larceny and other offences connected therewith*, or of a certain other Act passed in the same Session, and intituled *An Act for consolidating and amending the Laws in this Province, relative to malicious injuries to property*, or of a certain other Act passed in the same Session, and intituled *An Act for consolidating and amending the Statutes in this Province, relative to offences against the person*, or of any other Act or Law, as shall be repugnant to or inconsistent with the enactments of this Act, shall be and is hereby repealed.

Cases in which offenders may be committed to the Provincial Penitentiary for any term not less than three years.

II. And be it enacted, that for each and every offence for which by any of the Acts hereinabove cited, the offender is liable on conviction to be punished by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary, but may instead thereof and in the discretion of the Court, be punished by imprisonment in any other Prison or place of confinement for any term not exceeding two years, the offender may, if convicted after the passing of this Act, be punished in the discretion of the Court, by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for any term not less than three years and not exceeding the longest term for which such offender might have been so imprisoned if this Act had not been passed; or by imprisonment in any other Prison or place of confinement for any term not exceeding two years, in the manner prescribed by such Act; Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall prevent such offender from being punished by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for life, if he might have been so punished if this Act had not been passed.

III.