

XIII. *And be it enacted*, That any two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for any County in this Province, shall have full power and authority to hear and determine in a summary way, all complaints that may be made before them, for common Assaults and Batteries; and the offender, upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay such fine as to the said Justices shall seem meet, not exceeding the sum of Two Pounds and costs, if awarded—which fine, when received, shall be paid by the said Justices into the hands of the County Treasurer, to be accounted for by him to the Sessions; and that the said Justices shall file with the Clerk of the Peace, before the meeting of the General Sessions of the Peace, the receipt of the County Treasurer for such fine.

Complaints
for Common
Assaults may
be decided by
two Justices
of the Peace

XIV. *And be it enacted*, That in case the fine imposed by the said Justices, together with the costs, when awarded, shall not be paid immediately after the conviction, or within such period as the said Justices shall, at the time of the conviction, appoint, the same shall be levied by Warrant of Distress and sale of the offender's Goods and Chattels, if the said Justices shall see fit; or it shall be lawful for the said Justices to commit the said offender or offenders to Gaol, for any period not exceeding thirty days, unless the said fine and costs shall be sooner paid.

Recovery of
Penalties

XV. *And be it enacted*, That if the said Justices, upon hearing any complaint for an Assault and Battery, shall deem the offence not be proved, or so trifling as not to merit any punishment, they shall accordingly dismiss the complaint, and shall forthwith make out a Certificate, under their hands, stating the fact of such dismissal, and shall deliver such Certificate to the party so acquitted.

Complaints of
Assault may
be dismissed

XVI. *And be it enacted*, That the said Justices shall and may give costs to either Complainant or Defendant, or compel each party to pay his own costs, as they shall see fit, but no further or greater costs than is by Law provided.

Costs

XVII. *And be it enacted*, That the said Justices of the Peace, in case any offence charged before them, under any authority in this Act, shall be accompanied by circumstances of aggravation; or if, upon investigating any complaint made under and by virtue of this Act, it shall appear to the said Justices that the offender or offenders are deserving of a higher fine, or greater punishment than is prescribed by this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices to bind the offender or offenders, by recognizance, to appear at the next Supreme Court, and also to bind the Prosecutor or Prosecutors, and Witnesses, if necessary, to appear and prosecute.

Offences of an
aggravated na-
ture may be
transferred to
Supreme
Court

XVIII. *Provided always, and be it enacted*, That the prosecution of every offence, punishable on summary conviction, by virtue of this Act, shall be commenced within Three Calendar Months after the commission of the offence, and not otherwise.

Proviso

XIX. *And be it enacted*, That if any person against whom any complaint shall be made cognizable before two Justices, under and by virtue of this Act, shall have obtained such Certificate as aforesaid, or, having been convicted, shall have paid the whole amount adjudged to be paid under such conviction, or shall have suffered the punishment awarded for the non-payment of the amount of the said conviction, in every such case he or they shall be released from all further or other criminal proceedings, for the same cause.

Offenders may
be released
under certain
circumstances

XX. *And be it enacted*, That the said Justices, upon every conviction had before them, in pursuance of this Act, shall cause the same conviction to be drawn up in the form prescribed by the Act of Assembly, for the general form of a conviction before a Magistrate, or in any other form of words to the same effect, as the case may require: *Provided always*, that no such conviction shall be questioned for want of form, and no Warrant of Commitment shall be held void by reason of any defect therein, so as it be therein alleged that the party has been convicted, and there shall have been a good and valid conviction in point of fact to authorise the same, and so as the term or limit of the imprisonment be therein mentioned.

Convictions
before Magis-
trates

XXI. *Be it enacted*, That all Convictions had under and in pursuance of this Act, shall be returned and filed by the said Justices in the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, for the County in which such Conviction shall be had, on or before the first day of the term next ensuing the date of the said Convictions respectively.

Convictions to
be returned
and filed

XXII. *And be it enacted*, That the Terms or Sitzings of the said Supreme Court shall be respectively held in the several Counties of this Province hereinafter mentioned, at the times and places following, that is to say:

Sittings of Su-
preme Court

At