

in a summary way before any two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the District, and shall, on failure of payment be levied by warrant of distress to be issued by such Justices against the goods and chattels of the offender: and when the same shall exceed 5 the sum of ten pounds currency, they shall be sued for and recovered by bill, plaint, or information or action before any Court of competent jurisdiction, and levied by execution as in the case of debt; and one moiety of all such fines and forfeitures when recovered, shall (except 10 when herein otherwise provided) be immediately paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the City, Town, or place wherein the said action or prosecution shall have been instituted, and shall remain at the disposal of the Corporation thereof for the public use of the said City, Town, or place, respectively, and the other moiety shall belong to the person who shall sue for the same, unless the action be brought by an officer of such 15 Corporation, in which case the whole shall belong to the Corporation for the use aforesaid.

XXII. If any action or suit be brought or commenced against any person or persons or anything done in pursuance of this Act, such action or suit shall be commenced within twelve months 20 next after the matter and thing done and not afterwards: and the Defendant or Defendants in such suit or action may plead the general issue and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereon, and if afterwards judgment shall be given for the defendant or defendants, or the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be nonsuit or discontinue 25 his or their action or actions, after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, then such defendant or defendants shall have treble costs awarded against such plaintiff or plaintiffs, and have the like remedy for the same, as any defendant or defendants hath, or have in other cases to recover costs at law.

Limitation of actions for things done under this Act.

General issue may be pleaded, &c.

30 XXIII. The foregoing provisions of this Act, with the exceptions mentioned in the third, ninth, eleventh, and twelfth sections thereof, shall have force and effect upon, from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and not before.

Commencement of certain enactments of this Act.