

If any Subject of Sixteen years of age shall be present at any meeting under pretence of Exercise of Religion in any place, at which are present Five persons, besides those of the House, if it be in a House inhabited, or if in a House, Field, or place where no Family is then, if above Five persons be present, any one or more Justices of that Liberty, or the chief Magistrate upon proof of the Offence by Confession, or two Witnesses, or notorious evidence and circumstance of the Fact, to make a Record, which shall be a conviction, and to impose Five shillings a fine on every Offender, which shall be certified at the Quarter Session; and for the second Offence Ten shillings, which fines shall be levied by Distress and Sale, and if poor, on any person present at such Conventicle, and convicted at discretion, so as such sum to be levied on any other, exceed not Ten pound at one meeting, 22. Car. 2.

The Constable, Headborough, Tithingman, Church-warden, or Overseer to levy it by Warrant, under the Hand and Seal of such Justice, or chief Magistrate, and to deliver it to the Justice, or chief Magistrate, one part to the King, so paid to the Sheriff, viz. To be delivered into Sessions, and they to deliver it to the Sheriff, and to make a Record of it, and to certify it into the Exchequer, another third part to the poor, and the other third part to such Informer, or other person as the Justices shall appoint, having respect to their industry thereabouts. 22 Car. 2.

Every Preacher in such Conventicle shall forfeit Twenty pound to be levied by Distress and Sale, and if he be a stranger, or unknown, or is fled, or cannot be found, or the Justices shall judge him unable to pay, the Justice may levy the same on the Goods of any persons then present, to be disposed of as aforesaid. And for the second Offence the Preacher to forfeit Forty pound, to be levied and disposed of, as aforesaid. 22 Ca. 2.

The person that suffers such Conventicle in his House, &c. shall forfeit Twenty pound, to be levied and disposed of, as aforesaid. No person shall be liable to above Ten pound at any one meeting in respect of the poverty of any person. 22 Car. 2.

Where any sum charged on such Offender exceeds Ten shillings, he may within a week after it is levied, appeal in writing to the Sessions, and leave it with the Justice, whither the party convicting shall return the Money, and the whole Record and Evidence under Hand and Seal, to which the Appellant may plead, and it shall be tried by a Jury, and if he do not prosecute, or shall not be acquitted, or Judgment shall not pass for him; the Justices shall give treble costs, and no other Court shall meddle with Appeals, and the Appellant is to enter into a Recognizance before the person convicting to prosecute his Appeal, which shall be also certified to the Sessions. 22 Car. 2.

The Justices, or Constables, Tithingmen, and Headboroughs by Warrant from them, with what aid they think fit, upon refusal enter the House or Place, and seize the persons, and upon a Certificate under a Justices Hand and Seal of his information or knowledge of a Conventicle, and that he cannot suppress it, any Commissioned Officer of the Militia, or other the Kings Forces, and other Ministers of Justice with Souldiers or other aid may prevent or dissipate them. But no Lords House shall be searched, but by Warrant under the Kings Sign manual, or in presence of the Lord Lieutenant, or Deputy Lieutenant, or to Justices, *Quorum unus*. 22 Car. 2.

Any Constable, &c. knowing of a Conventicle, and not giving information, but they or any other being called, refusing to go in aid of them, and thereof convicted in form aforesaid, shall forfeit Five pound to be levied