

Dec.Ses. 1824

on receiving such information and warning, shall forthwith cease to offend against the provisions of this act, and shall remove as aforesaid at least two miles from such place of religious worship, then no further proceedings under this act shall be had against such person or persons; but if such person or persons shall refuse or neglect immediately to remove as aforesaid, when informed and warned as aforesaid, then on conviction thereof before a magistrate of the county in which the offence shall or may be committed, all such spirituous liquors, wine, porter, beer, cider, and other fermented, mixed, or strong drink, and other articles of traffic, and all the vessels, chests, and other things containing the same, belonging to, or in the possession of the person or persons so offending, together with such booth, stall, tent, carriage, boat, vessel, vehicle, or other contrivance or thing prepared and used for the purposes aforesaid, shall be, and are hereby declared to be forfeited, and it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace and constable, with two or more freeholders of the county in which such offence shall or may be committed, to seize and take possession of all or any part of the said forfeited property; and at any time within ten days thereafter, to advertise and sell the same, and after deducting and paying the necessary expenses attending such seizure and sale, shall pay over to the county collector for the use of the levy court of such county the residue of the proceeds of such sale or sales.

Exceptions.

3. *And be it enacted*, That nothing in this act contained, shall be taken or construed so as to effect any licensed tavern keeper, in his or her ordinary and lawful business, at his or her usual place of residence, nor shall it be so taken and construed as to effect any merchant, shopkeeper, farmer, mechanic, or other person in the usual and lawful transactions of his, her or their ordinary concerns, dealings and business, in their usual places of transacting or carrying on such business; nor shall it be so taken, construed, or understood, as to prevent any persons who may have permission or authority in writing to that effect, from the person or persons having the oversight, charge and management of such meeting, from selling bread and other necessary articles of food for man and beast, such person or persons conforming to the lawful rules and regulations of such meeting, and to the spirit and meaning of the permission or authority so as aforesaid to be given in writing.

4. *And be it enacted*, That if any suit or action shall be instituted against any person or persons for or on account of the seizure or sale of any goods or effects under authority of this act, or for doing or causing to be done, or aiding or assisting in doing any thing in pursuance of this act, according to the provisions thereof, the defendant or defendants may plead the general issue, and give the special matter under this act in evidence.

5. *And be it enacted*, That from and after the passage of this act, if any person or persons shall disturb any congregation, society, or meeting assembled for the purpose of religious worship, by blowing horns or trumpets, firing guns, or by any riotous or disorderly conduct or conversation, or by any other means, with intent to interrupt or disturb the worship, devotion or exercises of such congregation, society or meeting, or of any of the persons attending such meeting, he or they, on conviction before any two justices of

Persons sued may plead.

Penalty for disturbing a meeting.

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