

*An Act of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, in reference
to the Case of Dorr.*

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE
PLANTATIONS.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1854.

AN ACT to reverse and annul the Judgment of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island for Treason, rendered against Thomas W. Dorr, June 25th, A. D. 1844.

Whereas, the General Assembly of this State hath from time to time exercised the powers conferred upon it by the Charter of King Charles the Second, "to alter, reverse, annul or pardon, under their common seal or otherwise, such fines, mullets, imprisonments, sentences, judgments and condemnations as shall be thought fit:"

And whereas, the same powers were continued to the General Assembly under the existing Constitution of this State by the terms thereof, which provide "that the General Assembly shall continue to exercise the powers they have heretofore exercised, unless prohibited by the Constitution;" and by the provision that "the Supreme Court established by this Constitution shall have the same jurisdiction as the Supreme Judicial Court" theretofore existing:

And whereas, an alleged political offence, for which a judgment hath been rendered in favor of the State, may in certain cases furnish a proper occasion for the exercise of such high powers:

And whereas, upon the trial of Thomas Wilson Dorr, for the alleged crime of treason, there was an improper and illegal return of jurors in this, that one hundred and seven jurors from one political party were designedly selected by the Sheriff, in part with the aid and assistance of persons acting in behalf of the State, and only one juror from the other political party, and the accused was tried in a county other than that in which the alleged offence was committed and in which he resided, and he was allowed but two days with any, and but a few hours with some of the panel of jurors in which to inquire as to their disqualifications or obtain proof thereof, and was not allowed after the peremptory challenge of several such jurors and after obtaining proof of such disqualifications to withdraw said peremptory challenges, and to challenge
