

said jurors for cause, or to have a new trial in consequence thereof :

And whereas, the court denied the jury the right to pass upon questions of law, though said court had previously, in accordance with the common law, held that the jury might in criminal cases "take upon themselves the responsibility of deciding questions of law ;" and the accused was not allowed to show in justification or in explanation of his motives or intent, that he acted under a Constitution which had been adopted by a large majority of the people of the State, and an election under the same as Governor of the State, and in accordance with what he deemed to be his right and duty in consequence thereof :

And whereas, the said Thomas Wilson Dorr was thereby wrongfully convicted :

And whereas, it is desirable for the best interests of this State, that the wrongs thereby inflicted upon said Dorr, and upon the people of the State, should be redressed, and that the animosities created by the civil commotions which preceded and accompanied said trial should cease and determine :

And whereas it has been the custom of our English forefathers (but for which there hath been happily no occasion heretofore in the history of this country) whenever judgments for treason have been thus illegally and wrongfully obtained, to reverse by act of Parliament such judgments and to direct, to the end that justice be done to those who have been thus convicted, that the records thereof be cancelled or destroyed :

*It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows :*

Sec. 1. The judgment of the Supreme Court, whereby Thomas Wilson Dorr, of Providence, on the twenty-fifth day of June, A. D. 1844, was sentenced to imprisonment for life, at hard labor, in separate confinement, is hereby repealed, reversed, annulled and declared in all respects to be as if it had never been rendered.

Sec. 2. To the end that right be done to the said Thomas Wilson Dorr, the clerk of the Supreme Court for the county of Newport, is hereby directed to write across the face of the record of said judgment, the words, "Revised and annulled by order of the General Assembly, at their January session,, A. D. 1854."

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this act to each of the Governors of the several States, and to the Congress of the United States.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

A true copy, Attest ;

ASA POTTER, Secretary of State.