

SUPREME COURT CRIMINAL LAW, 1838

ACT NO. XXXI OF 1838

(Rep, by Act 10 of 1875)

[3rd December, 1838.]

*Passed by the Hon'ble the President of the Council of India in Council,
on the 3rd December, 1838.*

It is hereby enacted, that so much of a Statute made and passed in the 9th year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Fourth, entitled an Act for improving the administration of Criminal justice in the East Indies, as relates to any person who unlawfully and maliciously shall administer or attempt to administer to any person, or shall cause to be taken by any person, any poison or other destructive thing, or shall unlawfully and maliciously attempt to drown, suffocate, or strangle any person, or shall unlawfully and maliciously shoot at any person, or shall by drawing a trigger or in any other manner attempt to discharge any kind of loaded arms at any person, or shall unlawfully and maliciously stab, cut or wound any person, with intent in any of the cases aforesaid to murder such person; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall unlawfully and maliciously shoot at any person, or shall by drawing a trigger or in any other manner attempt to discharge any kind or loaded arms at any person, or shall unlawfully and maliciously stab, cut or wound any person, with intent in any of the cases aforesaid to maim, disfigure, or disable such person, or to do some other grievous bodily harm to such person, or with intent to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detainer of the party so offending, or of any his accomplices for any offence for which he or they may respectively be liable by law to be apprehended or detained; and so much of the said Act, as relates to any person who, with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman, then being quick with child, unlawfully and maliciously shall administer to her or cause to be taken by her any poison or other noxious thing, or shall use any instrument or other means whatsoever with the like intent; and who with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman, not being or not being proved to be then quick with child, unlawfully and maliciously shall administer to her, or cause to be taken by her, any medicine or other things, or shall use any instrument or other means whatever with the like intent; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall rob any other person of any chattel, money, or valuable security; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall accuse or threaten to accuse any other person of any infamous crime, with a view or intent to extort, or gain from him, and shall by intimidating him by such accusation or threat extort or gain from him any chattel, money or valuable security; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall steal from the person of another, or shall assault any other person with intent to rob him, or shall by menaces or by force demand property of any other person with intent to steal the same; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall be convicted of burglary; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall break and enter any dwelling house and steal therein any chattel, money or valuable security to any value whatever, or shall steal any such property to any value whatever in any dwelling house, any person therein being put in fear, or shall steal in any dwelling house any chattel, money or valuable security to the value in the whole of Fifty Company's Rupees or more; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall plunder and steal any part of any ship or vessel which shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore, or any goods, merchandize,

or articles of any kind belonging to such ship or vessel; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any church or chapel, or other public place of religious worship whatsoever, or shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any house, stable, coach-house, out-house, ware-house, office, shop, mill, barn, or granary, or to any building or erection used in carrying on any trade or manufacture or any branch thereof, whether the same or any of them respectively shall then be in the possession of the offender or in the possession of any other person, with intent thereby to injure or defraud any person; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to, or in any wise destroy, any ship or vessel, whether the same be complete, or in an unfinished state, or shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any goods being on board any ship or vessel as cargo, with intent to destroy such cargo or ship, and with intent thereby to prejudice any owner or part owner of such ship or vessel, or any owner or part owner of any goods on board the same, or any person that hath underwritten, or shall underwrite any policy of insurance upon such ship or vessel, or on the freight thereof, or upon any goods on board the same ; and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall exhibit any false light or signal with intent to bring any ship or vessel into danger, or shall unlawfully and maliciously do any thing tending to the immediate loss or destruction of any ship or vessel in distress, or destroy any part of any ship or vessel with shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore, or any goods, merchandize or articles of any kind belonging to such ship or vessel, or shall by force prevent or impede any person endeavouring to save his life from such ship or vessel (whether he shall be on board or shall have quitted the same); and so much of the said Act as relates to any person who shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any stack of rice, corn, or other grain or pulse, or sugar cane, whether standing or cut down, or to any part of a wood, coppice or plantation of trees or valuable plants, or to any grass, fren, or other like ground produce, wheresoever the same may be growing; and so much of the said Act as relates to the punishment of principals in the second degree, and of accessories before and after the fact respectively to such of the felonies punishable under those Act are hereinbefore referred to, shall, from the time of passing this Act, cease to have effect within the territories of the East India Company, except as to offences committed before or upon the day of passing this Act, which shall be dealt with and punished as if this Act had not been passed.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that this Act shall extend to all persons and over all places over whom or which the Criminal jurisdiction of any of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice within the territories under the Government of the East India Company extends, but not further or otherwise.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall administer to or cause to be taken by any person any poison or other destructive thing, or shall stab, cut, or wound any person, or shall by any means whatsoever cause to any person any bodily injury dangerous to life, with intent in any of the cases aforesaid to commit murder, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall suffer death.

IV. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall attempt to administer to any person any poison or other destructive thing, or shall shoot at any person, or shall by drawing a trigger, or in any other manner attempt to discharge any kind of loaded arms at any person, or shall attempt to drown, suffocate, or strangle any person, with intent in any of the cases aforesaid to commit the crime of murder, shall, although no bodily injury shall be effected be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct

for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

V. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever unlawfully maliciously shall shoot at any person, or shall by drawing a trigger or in any other manner attempt to discharge any kind of loaded arms at any person, with intent, in any of the cases aforesaid, to maim, disfigure, or disable such person, or to do some other grievous bodily harm to such person, or with intent to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detainer of any person, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

VI. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously send or deliver to or cause to be taken or received by any person any explosive substance or any other dangerous or noxious thing, or shall cast or throw upon or otherwise apply to any person any corrosive fluid or other destructive matter, with intent in any of the cases aforesaid, to burn, maim, disfigure, or disable any person or to do some other grievous bodily harm to any person, and whereby, in any of the cases aforesaid, any person shall be burnt, maimed, disfigured, or disabled, or receive some other grievous bodily harm, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

VII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman shall unlawfully administer to her or cause to be taken by her poison or other noxious thing, or shall unlawfully use any instrument or other means whatsoever with the like intent, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

VIII. And it is hereby enacted, that on the trial of any person for any of the offences hereinbefore mentioned, or for any felony whatever where the crime charged shall include an assault against the person, it shall be lawful for the jury to acquit of the felony and to find a verdict of guilty of assault against the person indicted, if the evidence shall warrant such finding, and when such verdict shall be found, the Court shall have power to imprison the person, so found guilty of an assault, for any term not exceeding four years.

IX. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall burglariously break and enter into any dwelling house, and shall assault with intent to murder any person being therein, or shall stab, cut, wound, beat or strike any such person shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall suffer death.

X. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall be convicted of the crime of burglary shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XI. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, that so far as the same is essential to the offence of burglary, the night shall be considered, and is hereby declared to commence at nine of the clock in the evening, and to conclude at six of the clock in the morning of the next succeeding day.

XII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall steal any property in any dwelling house, and shall by any menace or threat put any one being therein in bodily fear, or shall steal in any dwelling house any property to the value in the whole of Fifty Company's Rupees or more, or shall break and enter any dwelling house, and steal therein any property shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XIII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall rob any person, at the time of or immediately before or immediately after such robbery shall stab, cut or wound any person, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall suffer death.

XIV. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall, being armed with any offensive weapon or instrument, rob or assault with intent to rob any person, or shall together with one or more person or persons rob or assault with intent to rob any person, or shall rob any person, and at the time of or immediately before or after such robbery shall beat, strike or use any other personal violence to any person shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XV. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall accuse or threaten to accuse any person of the abominable crime of buggery committed either with mankind or with beast, or of any assault with intent to commit the said abominable crime, or of any attempt or endeavour to commit the said abominable crime, or of making or offering any solicitation, persuasion, promise, or threat to any person whereby to move or induce such person to commit or permit the said abominable crime, with a view or intent, in any of the cases aforesaid, to extort or gain from such person, and shall by intimidating such person by such accusation or threat, extort or gain from such person any property, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XVI. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall plunder or steal any part of any ship or vessel which shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore, or any goods, merchandize or articles of any kind belonging to such ship or vessel, and be convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XVII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall rob any person, or shall steal any property from the person of another, shall be liable at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct, for any term not exceeding fifteen years, nor less than ten years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three years.

XVIII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall assault any person with intent to rob shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three years.

XIX. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall, with menaces or by force, demand any property of any person with intent to steal the same, shall be guilty of

felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three years.

XX. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any dwelling house, any person being therein, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall suffer death.

XXI. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any church or chapel or other public place of religious worship whatsoever, or shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any house, stable, coach-house, out-house, ware-house, office, shop, mill, barn, or granary, or to any building or erection used in carrying on any of them respectively shall then be in the possession of the offender or in the possession of any other person, with intent thereby to the injure or defraud any person, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to, cast away, or in anywise destroy any ship or vessel either with intent to murder any person, or whereby the life of any person shall be endangered, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall suffer death.

XXIII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully exhibit any false light or signal with intent to bring any ship or vessel into danger, or shall unlawfully and maliciously do any thing tending to the immediate loss or destruction of any ship or vessel in distress shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall suffer death.

XXIV. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to or in anywise destroy any ship or vessel whether the same be completed or an unfinished state, or shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to, cast away, or in any wise destroy any ship or vessel, with intent thereby to prejudice any owner or part owner of such ship or vessel, or of any goods on board the same or any person that hath underwritten or shall underwrite any policy of insurance upon such ship or vessel or on the freight thereof or upon any goods on board the same, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXV. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall by force prevent or impede any person endeavouring to save his life from any ship or vessel which shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore (whether he shall be on board or shall have quitted the same) shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXVI. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously destroy any part of any ship or vessel which shall be in distress, or wrecked, stranded, or cast on shore, or any goods, merchandize or articles of any kind belonging to such ship or vessel, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall direct for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXVII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any mine of coal shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall think fit for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXVIII. And it is hereby enacted, that whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously set fire to any stack or rice, corn or other grain, pulse, or sugar cane, straw, hay, or wood, or to any crop of rice, corn or other like ground produce, wheresoever the same may be growing, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported to such place as the Court shall think fit for life, or for any term of years, or to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding four years.

XXIX. And it is hereby enacted, that if any person shall steal the whole or any part of any growing tree, sapling or shrub, or any underwood, or of any pale, post of stile, or any growing cultivated plant, root, fruit, or vegetable production, or shall unlawfully and maliciously commit any damage, injury, or spoil to or upon any real or personal property whatsoever, either of a public or private nature, every such offender being convicted before a magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall, for the first offence, forfeit and pay, over and above the amount of the injury done, such sum of money, not exceeding Fifty Rupees as to the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall seem meet; and if any person so convicted shall afterwards be guilty of any of the said offences, and shall be offence, be imprisoned with or without hard labor, for such term not exceeding six calendar months as the convicting Magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall think fit. Provided always that nothing in this Section contained concerning the stealing of any property or malicious damage, injury or spoil to or upon any real property of a private nature shall extend to the settlements of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, or Malacca.

XXX. And it hereby enacted, that every sum of money which shall be forfeited for the amount of any injury done (such amount in each case to be assessed by the convicting Magistrate or Justice of the Peace) shall be paid to the party aggrieved, if known, except when such party shall have been examined in proof of the offence, and that in every case of a summary conviction under this Act, when the sum which shall be forfeited for the amount of the injury done, or which shall be imposed as a penalty by the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall not be paid, either immediately after the conviction or within such period as the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace shall at the time of conviction appoint, it shall be lawful for the convicting Magistrate or Justice of the Peace to commit the offender to the Common Goal or House of Correction to be imprisoned only, or to be imprisoned with hard labor according to the discretion of the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace for any term not exceeding two calendar months, where the amount of the sum forfeited, or of the penalty imposed, or of both, (as the case may be) together with the costs shall not exceed Fifty Rupees, and for any term not exceeding four calendar months when the amount with costs shall not exceed One Hundred Rupees, and for any term not exceeding six calendar months in any other case, the commitment to be determinable in each of the cases aforesaid upon payment of the amount and costs.

XXXI. Provided always, that where several persons shall join in the commission of the same offence, and shall, upon conviction thereof, each be adjudged to forfeit a sum equivalent to the amount of the injury done, in every such case no further sum shall be paid to the part aggrieved than that which shall be forfeited by one of such offenders only.

XXXII. And it is hereby enacted that in case any person convicted of any offence punishable upon summary conviction by virtue of this Act shall have paid the sum adjudged to be paid together with costs under such conviction, or shall have suffered the imprisonment awarded for non-payment thereof, every such person shall be released from all further or other proceedings for the same cause.

XXXII. And it is hereby enacted, that every punishment and forfeiture by this Act imposed on any person maliciously committing any offence shall equally apply and be enforced whether the offence shall have been committed from malice conceived against the owner of the property in respect of which it shall be committed or otherwise.

XXXIV. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall not be necessary in any proceeding either for theft or for malicious injury, spoil, or damage, to or upon any property dedicated to public use or ornament, to allege the same to be the property of any person.

XXXV. And it is hereby enacted, that the word "property" shall throughout this Act be deemed to include every thing included under the words "chattel, money, or valuable security" in the said Statute

made and passed in the ninth year of the reign of his Majesty King George 4th aforesaid—and that the term dwelling hose shall have the same construction as in the said Statute.

XXXVI. And it is hereby enacted, that in the case of every felony punishable under this Act, every principal in the second degree and every accessory before the fact shall be punishable with death or otherwise in the same manner as the principal in the first degree in by this Act punishable. And every accessory after the fact to any felony punishable under this Act (except only a receiver of stolen property) shall on conviction, be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years.

XXXVII. And it is hereby enacted, that where any person shall be convicted under this Act for any offence punishable under this Act for which imprisonment may be awarded, it shall be lawful for the Court to sentence the offender to be imprisoned and kept to hard labor, and also to direct that the prisoner be kept in solitary confinement for such a period or periods of the imprisonment as to the Court in its discretion shall seem meet not exceeding one month at a time, or three months in any one year.

XXXVIII. And it is hereby enacted and provided that it shall not be lawful for any Court, under the authority of this Act, to order the transportation of any person being a native of the East Indies, and not born of European parents, to the Eastern Coast of New South Wales, or any of the Islands adjacent thereto.
