

No. 379.

AN ACT

More effectually to preserve the public grounds and public buildings of the commonwealth.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, The public grounds enclosed around the capitol of the state are continually infested with persons, during the summer season, of all ages and sexes, committing depredations in defiance to the keepers of the buildings and grounds, upon the shrubbery, trees, walks and buildings :

And whereas, It is necessary that some provision be made for the better preservation and protection of those grounds, together with the walks, shrubbery, trees and buildings ; therefore,

Penalty for injuries to public walks, shrubbery, trees, grounds, &c.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That from and after the passage of this act, all and every person or persons, minors as well as adults, who shall be guilty of injuring any of the public walks, shrubbery, trees or grounds, in any way or manner whatever, or who shall daub, paint or disfigure the columns or walls of any of the public buildings, shall be considered guilty of malicious mischief, and punished by fine or imprisonment ; and in all cases of any of the aforesaid trespassers being committed, the keeper of the public grounds or the public buildings, may prosecute such offenders, before any justice of the peace in the borough of Harrisburg, and shall be a competent witness in any of said prosecutions; and upon a hearing of the case and the facts made out, the justice shall fine the defendant or defendants in any sum not exceeding ten dollars and cost of suit, or in case of a want of means to pay said judgment and fine and costs, the justice may commit the party so offending to the jail of the county, for any time not exceeding ten days : *Provided*, That all penalties recovered under this act shall be paid into the state treasury of this commonwealth : *And provided further*, That the agents of the commonwealth who are employed as the keepers of the public ground and public buildings, shall have the power and authority to order any disorderly persons, minors as well as adults, out of the limits of said enclosed grounds, and in case they refuse to leave, upon being requested so to do, by either of the aforesaid keepers, they may make complaint before a justice of the peace, of the misconduct of such persons, and the justice shall issue his warrant and inquire into the facts, and shall have power to bind all such persons to be of good behavior, and pay the costs of said prosecution.

Proviso.

Proviso.

WILLIAM F. PACKER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GEORGE DARSIE,

Speaker of the Senate

APPROVED—The tenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine.

WM. F. JOHNSTON.