Weft-Riding of Yorkshire.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSTABLES.

70U are the immediate and proper officers to Juffices of the Y Peace; and, as fuch, are bound to execute, with readiness and difpatch, all warrants, fummonfes, and precepts, directed to you from the Magistrates; or, by their order, from the High Constable of your district.

The most effential part of your duty is, a general fuperintendence over the peace and good order of your district. Your powers for this purpofe are great and extensive, and your duty is compulfory. On any breach of the peace in your prefence, you are bound by your oath to interpofe, and you are feverely punishable for omiffion. You are not only empowered (as all private perfons are) to part an affray which happens in your prefence, but you are, at your peril, to use your best endeavours for that purpose. Where any person shall threaten to kill, beat, or hurt another, or shall evidently be ready to break the peace, it is your duty to interpofe; and if the offender perfift, you may carry him before a Magistrate, to find fureties of the peace.

You are to fupprefs all riots; and (which is much better) prevent them. If you hear diffurbances in public-houfes, tending towards a breach of the peace, it is your duty to enter and reftore good order.

When you are called upon for your affiliance to quell, or prevent any breach of the peace, you must attend on the ipot without delay, and you are punifhable for neglect. In all fuch cafes you fhould first use perfuasion and exhortation; and when you find fuch means ineffectual, you may arreft the offenders; and whenever you arreft a man on your own authority, you fhould take him, with all convenient fpeed, before a Magistrate. But if, from the time of night, diftance, or other reafonable impediment, that cannot conveniently be done, you may keep him in fafe custody until the morning. But you must particularly obferve, that in whatfoever cafe you may have taken a perfon into your custody, you may by no means difcharge him by your own authority.

You are to make purfuit of Hue and Cry at all times, when demanded of you, in confequence of a felony recently committed, or of any perion being grievoully and dangeroully wounded; the party aggrieved giving, you a reafonable affurance of the fact, and bing the felo *By purfuit of Hue and Cry*, you are to affiliance of fuch perfons as you chule for the felon

are allo to the immediate information to the Conflables of the neighbouring diffricts, with me like defcription of the offence and the offender, that you have yourfelf received.

In the execution of your office, you are not to be intimidated by fear, or fwayed by favor or affection. To fupport you in your duty, the law has armed you with extensive powers, as well for your affiftance, as for your indemnity and protection. You may demand the aid and affiftance of all His Majefly's fubjects, who, on refulal, are punishable by fine and imprisonment. You are, by ftatute, indemnified for what you do, in obedience to the warrant of a Juffice of the Peace; and it has been determined that a perfon ought to be committed for opposing a Constable, though by words only, in the execution of his office; be care ful, therefore, to obleve flrictly the directions of your warrant, and keep it after the fervice for your juffification. Should you be affaulted in the execution of your office, you are, in a peculiar manner under the protection of the law, and the offence is liable to a very aggravated penalty, or corporal punifhment.

You are not to fuffer any common beggars or vagrants to remain within your district; but, without a warrant, to carry them before a Magistrate. By vagrants you are generally to understand-perfons wandering abroad, and begging under falle pretences, and without certificate or pass; persons lodging in alehouses, barns, and out-houfes, not giving a good account of themfelves; gipfeys, fortune-tellers, jugglers, and gamefters, or others using any fubtle craft to deceive or impose on His Majefty's fubjects; venders of medicines, or other petty chapmen, or pedlars wandering abroad

without being duly licenfed. Thefe you are entitled to a reward for apprehending, and if you refuse or neglect to apprehend and convey fuch perfons before a Magistrate, you are liable to a penalty. You are also to bring to punishment all drivers of waggons, carts, &c. misbehaving in the ftreets and highways, whereby the fafety of travellers and paffengers is fo frequently endangered, and fo many lives are loft.

On reafonable fufpicion you are to arreft felons and rogues of all kinds, and carry them before a Magistrate. It is your duty to keep a watchful eye over strangers of sufficious appearance, who continue strolling about within your district; if such are seen out of their lodgings at unfeatonable hours of the night, and refufe to give an account of themfelves, you may détain them in cuftody till the next morning, and carry them before a Magistrate; by your attention in this particular, houfe-breaking, felonies, and many other malicious practices may be prevented.

You ought frequently to infpect the public-houfes within your diffrict, and to fee that the laws and orders of the Quarter Seffions are punctually obeyed. You are bound to prefent all fuch publicans as futter gaming, tippling, (which is drinking longer, or in greater quantities, than neceffary refreshment requires) or any other irregularities. You are also to report to the Magilizates in their Party Seffior, the refult of such infpection. Magistrates in their Petty Seffion, the refult of fuch infpection, and return the names of perfons found tippling or gaming at unseasonable hours.

If in any fuch fearch you find any diforderly people who refuse to give an account of themselves, or have no visible means of support, you may arrest them and bring them before the Magistrate in the morning.

You are to make diligent enquiry and fearch, to detect perfons who shall use *fhort weights and meafures*, or fell unwholefome provisions, and give due notice to the Magistrates concerning them, that His Majesty's subjects, and especially the *labouring* poor, be not thereby defrauded and injured.

It is your duty to inform the Magistrates of perfons keeping houses of bad fame, fuffering unlawful games, and felling ale without license, or who lodge vagrants.

Pay particular attention to public-houfes on Saturday nights ; many a poor man's wages are then confumed, and his family thereby left to mifery and hunger, through the following week.

It is alfo your duty to promote a due obfervance of the who fhall, contrary to the flatutes, exercife their worldly callings on the Lord's-day, and effectially to obferve those who refort to public-houses, or use sports in time of divine fervice, that they may be proceeded against according to law.

It is part of your duty to prefent the offence of drunkennefs, or rather to make immediate information thereof before a Magistrate. And if in your hearing any perfon fhould be guilty of profane curfing and fwearing, if unknown, you may carry him before a Magiftrate; if known, you fhould make information; for on your default, you are yourfelf liable to punifhment.

You fhall make a due return of Jurors according to your precept; and if in your lift you omit the name of any perfon which ought to be inferted, or infert any one which ought to be omitted, or shall take any reward for any fuch infertion or omiffion, you are liable to a fevere penalty, on conviction before One Justice.

Bear in your mind, that thefe are duties which you are Jworn to perform to the beft of your knowledge and abilities, and that by neglect thereof you incur the heinous fin of perjury. Confider that you are the executive officer of juffice, and the confervator of the peace; and that, by neglecting your duty, you obfiruct the law in its courfe, and deprive your fellow fubjects of that fecurity and protection which every honeft man has a right to receive from you In fome cafes you will be entitled to rewards; and your neceffary expences, within certain reftrictions, will be repaid you by the parish, the county, or the parties.

We approve of the above Instructions.

(SIGNED)

HAWKE, F. F. FOLJAMBE, W. WOOD, M. A. T'AYLOR, B. COOKE, FRAL B. BROOKSBANK, C. MELLISH J. SMYTH, A. NEWMAN, J. STOVIN,

T. B. BAYLEY.

WAKEFIELD ADJOURNED SESSIONS, EIGHTH SEPTEMBER, 1796,

PRESENT,

B. FRANK, J. SMYTH, ESQUIRES; J. DIXON, W. WOOD, CLERKS.

ORDERED, That the above Inftructions to Constables, (produced by Mr. FRANK,) be printed and fent annually to the Chief Constables, and be by them alfo distributed among their respective Petty Constables.

JOHN FOLJAMBE. DEPUTY CLERK OF THE PEACE.

E. Waller, Printer, Northgate, Wakefield,

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F. F. FOLLAMBE, | W. WOOD,

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T. B. BAYLEY.

A STATISTICS AND STANDARS, EIGHTH SEPTEMBER, 1796.

. P. MAANS & SATATI, HARMANS, J. DINON, W. WOOD, CLERKS,

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JOHN FOLJAMBE, DIPUTY CLERK OF THE FRACE.

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