

West-Riding of Yorkshire.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSTABLES.

YOU are the immediate and proper officers to Justices of the Peace; and, as such, are bound to execute, with readiness and dispatch, all warrants, summonses, and precepts, directed to you from the Magistrates; or, by their order, from the High Constable of your district.

The most essential part of your duty is, a general superintendance over the peace and good order of your district. Your powers for this purpose are great and extensive, and your duty is compulsory. On any breach of the peace in your presence, you are bound by your oath to interpose, and you are severely punishable for omission. You are not only empowered (as all private persons are) to part an affray which happens in your presence, 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 interpose; and if the offender persist, you may carry him before a Magistrate, to find sureties of the peace.

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

When you are called upon for your assistance to quell, or prevent any breach of the peace, you must attend on the spot without delay, and you are punishable for neglect. In all such cases you should first use persuasion and exhortation; and when you find such means ineffectual, you may arrest the offenders; and whenever you arrest a man on your own authority, you should take him, with all convenient speed, before a Magistrate. But if, from the time of night, distance, or other reasonable impediment, that cannot conveniently be done, you may keep him in safe custody until the morning. But you must *particularly observe*, that in whatsoever case you may have taken a person into your custody, you may *by no means* discharge him by your own authority.

You are to make *pursuit of Hue and Cry* at all times, when demanded of you, in consequence of a felony recently committed, or of any person being grievously and dangerously wounded; the party aggrieved giving you a reasonable assurance of the fact, and obliging the felon. *By pursuit of Hue and Cry*, you are to

are also to give immediate information to the Constables of the neighbouring districts, with the like description of the offence and the offender, that you have yourself received.

In the execution of your office, you are not to be intimidated by fear, or swayed by favor or affection. To support you in your duty, the law has armed you with extensive powers, as well for your *assistance*, as for your *indemnity and protection*. You may demand the aid and assistance of all His Majesty's subjects, who, on refusal, are punishable by fine and imprisonment. You are, by statute, indemnified for what you do, in obedience to the warrant of a Justice of the Peace; and it has been determined that a person ought to be *committed for opposing a Constable*, though by *words only*, in the execution of his office; be careful, therefore, to observe strictly the directions of your warrant, and keep it after the service for your justification. Should you be assaulted 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 punishment.

You are not to suffer 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—persons wandering abroad, and begging under false pretences, and without certificate or pass; persons lodging in alehouses, barns, and out-houses, not giving a good account of themselves; gipseys, fortune-tellers, jugglers, and gamesters, or others using any subtle craft to deceive or impose on His Majesty's subjects; venders of medicines, or other petty chapmen, or pedlars wandering abroad

without being duly licensed. These you are entitled to a reward for apprehending, and if you refuse or neglect to apprehend and convey such persons 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 streets and highways, whereby the safety of travellers and passengers is so frequently endangered, and so many lives are lost.

On reasonable suspicion you are to arrest felons and rogues of all kinds, and carry them before a Magistrate. It is your duty to keep a watchful eye over strangers of suspicious appearance, who continue strolling about within your district; if such are seen out of their lodgings at unseasonable hours of the night, and refuse to give an account of themselves, you may detain them in custody till the next morning, and carry them before a Magistrate; by your attention in this particular, house-breaking, felonies, and many other malicious practices may be prevented.

You ought frequently to inspect the public-houses within your district, and to see that the laws and orders of the Quarter Sessions are punctually obeyed. You are bound to present all such publicans as *suffer gaming, tipping*, (which is drinking longer, or in greater quantities, than necessary refreshment requires) or any other irregularities. You are also to report to the Magistrates in their Petty Session, the result of such inspection, and return the names of persons found tipping or gaming at unseasonable hours.

If in any such search you find any disorderly 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 search, to detect persons who shall use *short weights and measures*, or sell *unwholesome 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 persons keeping houses of bad fame, suffering unlawful games, and selling ale without license, or who lodge vagrants.

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

It is also your duty to promote a due observance of the *Lord's-day*, and especially to observe those who resort to public-houses, or use sports in time of divine service, that they may be proceeded against according to law.

It is part of your duty to present the offence of drunkenness, or rather to make immediate information thereof before a Magistrate. And if in your hearing any person should be guilty of profane cursing and swearing, if unknown, you may carry him before a Magistrate; if known, you should make information; for on your default, you are yourself liable to punishment.

You shall make a due return of Jurors according to your precept; and if in your list you omit the name of any person which ought to be inserted, or insert any one which ought to be omitted, or shall take any reward for any such insertion or omission, you are liable to a severe penalty, on conviction before One Justice.

Bear in your mind, that these are duties which you are *sworn to perform to the best of your knowledge and abilities*, and that *by neglect thereof you incur the heinous sin of perjury*. Consider that you are the executive officer of justice, and the conservator of the peace; and that, by neglecting your duty, you obstruct the law in its course, and deprive your fellow subjects of that security and protection which every honest man has a right to receive from you. In some cases you will be entitled to rewards; and your necessary expences, within certain restrictions, 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,
B. FRANK,	J. WILSON,	J. DIXON,
M. A. TAYLOR,	B. BROOKSBANK,	C. MELLISH,
B. COOKE,	J. SMYTH,	T. B. BAYLEY.
J. STOVIN,	A. NEWMAN,	

WAKEFIELD ADJOURNED SESSIONS, EIGHTH SEPTEMBER, 1796.

PRESENT,

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

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

JOHN FOLJAMBE,
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE PEACE.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONSTABLES

You are the man, the only person, who is to be responsible for the execution of the law in your district. You are to be the eyes and ears of the law, and you are to be the hands and feet of the law. You are to be the first and last resort of the law, and you are to be the first and last resort of the law.

It is your duty to see that the law is executed in your district. You are to be the eyes and ears of the law, and you are to be the hands and feet of the law. You are to be the first and last resort of the law, and you are to be the first and last resort of the law.

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Approved of the above Instructions

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| E. F. HOLLAMBE | J. WOOD |
| J. WOOD | J. DIXON |
| G. MELLISH | T. R. BAYLEY |
| J. SMITH | |
| A. NEWMAN | |

WARRANTED ADJOURNED SESSIONS, EIGHTH SEPTEMBER, 1890

PRESENT: E. HOLLAMBE, J. WOOD, J. DIXON, W. WOOD, Clerks.

This warrant is to be printed and sent annually to the Chief Constable and to be distributed among their respective Key Constables.

JOHN HOLLAMBE, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE PEACE.

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