

with and person, and after the laws and Customs of this Realm, and Statutes thereof made, you shall not be offe[n]d with any person in any quarrel depending before you: and that ye hold your sessions after the form of the Statutes thereof made; and the issues fines and amerciaments, that happen to be made, and all forfeitures which shall fall before you, you shall cause to be Entred without Concealment or Embozziling, and truly send them to the Kings Exchequer; you shall not let for gift or other cause, but well and truly you shall do the office of a Justice of peace, in that behalf; and that you take no thing for your office of Justice of peace to be done, but of the King, and fees accustomed, and costs limited by the Statute: you shall not Directly nor cause to be Directed, any Warrant (by you to be Made) to the parties, but you shall Direct them to the Bailiffs of the said County or other the Kings officers or Ministers or other sufficient persons to do Execution thereof. So Help you God.

Their Court is called the court of Sessions of Justices of peace, to be by two or more *Quorum unius*, at any place of the County they think fit. But Justices for Counties at large, are not Authorized to hold their General quarter sessions, in Cities or towns that are Countees of themselves. 9 G. 1 cap. 7 § 3. The sessions of the peace are either General or Special sessions. Special or private sessions are those holden on a special occasion for the execution of some particular branch of their Authority. General sessions are two sorts, of such as are holden in the four quarters of the Year viz. the first Tuesdays of March, May, and August, and the last Tuesday of October act. 38 Parl. sess. 1 Ch. 2. But more is put here by mistake for February. Because not only in the Instructions to the Justices of peace, in the Year 1610 & 1635 (out of which this act is mostly drawn) the first Tuesday of February is made one of the quarter sessions; but also in the same Act servants fees and wardenment prices are ordained to be Determined at the quarter sessions in August and February. And before, the Interval betwixt the first Tuesday of February and

How the Sessions of the Peace are held in the County of Middlesex, and what the Justices of the Peace do there.

first Tuesday of May, makes a just quarter of a Year, where as two Months only Inter-ven betwixt those days in March and May. Which General sessions are called the General quarter sessions, and sometimes termed Principal sessions. 12 Eliz. cap. 12 § 1. Some times upon sessions 27 Eliz. cap. 19 § 2. & 1 Jac. 1. and holden at any other time, for the General Execution of the Authority of Justices of peace, which are called General sessions simply.

In England the Sheriff uplifts the fines and forfeitures imposed or incurred in the sessions of the Peace, and the Clerk Deliver to him an Extract of them within ten days after Michaelmas 22 & 23 Car. 2 cap. 22 § 7. joined. 1665 W. & M. cap. 24. But our Justices of peace appoint a sufficient Collector for uplifting the fines and penalties imposed by them upon offenders, and cause them to find first. At which Collectors Instance the lords of session used before the act 13 sess. 2 Parl. W. & M. to Direct General letters on a 15 days charge: and not to suspend but upon Confignation of the fine, and caution for Damages: But the power of Naming the Clerk of the peace who is called Rotulorum, i.e. keeper of the Rolls of the sessions, belongs to the secretaries of State act 20 sess. 2 Parl. J. 7.

The orders of Justices of peace are executed by Constables appointed from six Months to six months by themselves for their quarter sessions, and by the Magistrates of Royal Burghs. But Constables have always an *intrinsech* Authority inherent in their office: to apprehend persons guilty of heinous Capital Crimes; or in case of their escape to raise the hue and cry, and call the countries assistants in pursuit of them; to force suspected persons, Night watchmen, who cannot give a good Account of themselves, haunters of bawdy houses, Vagabonds, sturdy beggars, Egyptians &c. and carry them to the next Justice of peace; to rid frays, and call the assistants of Neighbourhood for that end; to force open in the day time, close doors, with in which an affray or Riot happens to be, for keeping the peace, and apprehending the Rioters. But a Constable