

the extinguishing of any fire, shall be deemed to be guilty of the burning as accessory after the fact, and shall be punished therefor as provided in section fourth of the one hundred and thirty-third chapter of the Revised Statutes. [*Approved by the Governor, May 21, 1855.*]

An Act in addition to the Act to incorporate the Town of South Danvers, and amendatory to the Act to establish the Fire Department of the Town of Danvers, passed in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-nine. Chap. 447

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

SECT. 1. Said town of South Danvers shall be considered a part of the town of Danvers for the purpose of voting on the several amendments to the constitution, which towns in this Commonwealth are required to vote upon on the twenty-third day of this present month; and the selectmen of the town of Danvers are hereby required to receive the votes of persons belonging to said town of South Danvers, and make return of the same, together with those of the town of Danvers, in the same manner as if the act to incorporate the town of South Danvers had not been passed.

South Danvers to vote with Danvers on amendments to the constitution.

SECT. 2. The first section of the act to establish the fire department in the town of Danvers, passed in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty-nine, is so far amended as to require the town of Danvers to choose five persons as fire-wards, instead of twelve persons, as therein required.

Five firewards instead of twelve.

SECT. 3. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. [*Approved by the Governor, May 21, 1855.*]

An Act to extend the Jurisdiction of Police Courts, in certain cases. Chap. 448

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

SECT. 1. The several police courts of this Commonwealth shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the municipal court of the city of Boston, and the court of common pleas, of all larcenies where money or other property stolen shall not be alleged to exceed the value of fifty dollars, in all which cases the punishment imposed may be such as the court of common pleas and municipal court are authorized to inflict by existing laws.

Police courts to have concurrent jurisdiction with C. C. Pleas in cases of larceny not exceeding \$50.

SECT. 2. The several police courts of this Commonwealth, in addition to the jurisdiction now exercised by

Also, of assault and battery, not felonious.

them in cases of assault and battery, shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the municipal court of Boston, and the court of common pleas in the several counties of the State, of all cases of assault and battery, not felonious, occurring within their jurisdiction, in all which cases the punishment imposed may be such as the municipal court and court of common pleas are authorized to impose by existing laws.

Police courts may decline to take final jurisdiction, etc.

SECT. 3. Said police courts may, at their discretion, decline to take final jurisdiction in any of the cases referred to in this act, and may send the same, as now, to the court of common pleas or municipal court for examination and trial; and any person convicted under the provisions of this act shall have the right of appeal, in the same manner and to the same extent as in other cases. [*Approved by the Governor, May 21, 1855.*]

Appeal.

Chap. 449

An Act to establish the Superior Court of the County of Suffolk.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

Superior Court in Suffolk, with four justices.

SECT. 1. There shall be, and hereby is, established, in the county of Suffolk, a court, to be called the Superior Court of the County of Suffolk; and there shall be appointed, commissioned and qualified, in the manner prescribed by the constitution, four suitable persons, learned in the law, to be justices of the said court, one of whom shall be appointed and commissioned as chief justice of the said court.

Same powers as C. C. Pleas.

SECT. 2. The said court shall have, in all respects, the same powers which the court of common pleas now has, when sitting in said county, and until otherwise provided, shall appoint a clerk and an assistant clerk of said court, and any other officers that may be necessary for the transaction of the business thereof, and shall establish a seal for the said court; and all writs and processes issuing from the said court, which by law are required to be under seal, shall be under the seal, and signed by the clerk or assistant clerk thereof, and may run into any county, and shall be obeyed and respected throughout the Commonwealth.

Clerk, etc.

Seal.

Writs, etc.

Jurisdiction.

SECT. 3. The said court shall have jurisdiction in all cases, and in the same manner, and to the same extent, in which the court of common pleas now has jurisdiction in said county, whether original and exclusive, concurrent or appellate; and they shall also have exclusive jurisdiction, in