



# Metropolitan Police Courts Act 1839

## 1839 CHAPTER 71

### **XXXIX Power to deal summarily with Cases of oppressive Distresses.**

And be it enacted, That on Complaint made to any of the said Magistrates by any Person who shall, within the Metropolitan Police District, have occupied any House or Lodging by the Week or Month, or whereof the Rent does not exceed the Rate of Fifteen Pounds by the Year, that his Goods have been taken from him by an unlawful Distress, or that the Landlord, or his Broker or Agent, has been guilty of any Irregularity or Excess in respect of such Distress, it shall be lawful for such Magistrate to summon the Party complained against, and if upon the hearing of the Matter it shall appear to the Magistrate that such Distress was improperly taken, or unfairly disposed of, or that the Charges made by the Party having distrained or having attempted to distrain are contrary to Law, or that the Proceeds of the Sale of such Distress have not been duly accounted for to the Owner thereof, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to order the Distress so taken, if not sold, to be returned to the Tenant on Payment of the Rent which shall appear to be due at such Time as the Magistrate shall appoint, or if the Distress shall have been sold, then to order Payment to the said Tenant of the Value thereof, deducting thereout the Rent which shall so appear to be due, such Value to be determined by the Magistrate ; and such Landlord or Party complained against, in default of Compliance with any such Order, shall forfeit to the Party aggrieved the Value of such Distress, not being greater than Fifteen Pounds, such Value to be determined by the Magistrate.