CAP. XXVIII.

* All monasteries given to the King, which have not lands above two hundred pounds by the year.

Forasmuch as manifest sünne, vicious, carnal and abominable living is daily used and committed commonly in such little and small abbeys, priories and other religious houses of monks, canons and nuns, where the congregation of such religious persons is under the number of twelve persons, whereby the governors of such religious houses, and their cowen, spoyle, destroye, consume and utterly waste, as well their churches, monasteries, priories, principal houses, farms, granges, lands, tenements and hereditaments, as the ornaments of their churches, and their goods and chatells, to the high displeasure of Almighty God, fander of good religion, and to the great infamy of the King's highness and the realm, if redres should not be had thereof. And albeit that many continual visitations hath been heretofore had, by the space of two hundred years and more, for an honest and charitable reformation of such unthrifty, carnal and abominable living, yet nevertheless little or none amendment is hitherto had, but their vicious living shamelessly increaseth and augmenteth, and by a corruped custom so rooted and infected, that a great multitude of the religious persons in such small houses do rather choose to rove abroad in apostacy, than to conform themselves to the observation of good religion; so that without such small houses be utterly suppress'd, and the religious persons therein committed to great and honourable monasteries of religion in this realm, where they may be compelled to live religiously, for reformation of their lives, the same else be no redres nor reformation in that behalf. In consideration whereof, the King's most royal Majesty, being supreme head on earth, under God, of the church of England, daily studying and devising the increas, advancement and exaltation of true doctrine and virtue in the said church, to the only glory and honour of God, and the total extirpation and disfracture of vice and sin, having knowledge that the premisses be true, as well by the atcompts of his late visitations, as by sundry credible informations, considering also that divers and great solemn monasteries of this realm, wherein (thanks be to God) religion is right well kept and observed, be defluite of such full number of religious persons, as they ought and may keep, hath thought good that a plain declaration should be made of the premisses, as well to the lords spiritual and temporal, as to other his loving subjects the commons, in this present parliament assembled: whereupon the said lords and commons, by a great deliberation, finally be resolved, that it is and shall be much more to the pleasure of Almighty God, and for the honour of this his realm, that the possessions of such small religious houses now being spent, spoiled and wasted for increase and maintenance of sin, should be used and committed to better uses, and the unthrifty religious persons, so spending the same, to be compelled to reform their lives: And thereupon most humbly desere the King's highness that it may be enacted by authority of this present parliament, That his Majesty shall have and enjoy to him and
his heirs for ever, all and singular such monasteries, priories and other religious houses of monks, canons and nuns, of what kinds of diversities of habits, rules or order these be called or named, which have not in lands, tenements, rents, tythes, portions and other hereditaments, above the clear yearly value of two hundred pound. (2) And in like manner shall have and enjoy all the sites and circuits of every such religious house, and all and singular the manors, granges, meases, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, tithes, pensions, portions, churches, chapels, advowsons, patronages, annuities, rights, entries, conditions, and other hereditaments appertaining or belonging to every such monastery, priory or other religious house, not having, as is aforesaid, above the said clear yearly value of two hundred pound, in as large and ample manner as the abbots, priors, abbes, prioresses and other governors of such monasteries, priories and other religious houses now have, or ought to have the same in the right of their houses. (3) And that also his Highness shall have to him and to his heirs all and singular such monasteries, abbeys and priories, which at any time within one year next before the making of this act hath been given and granted to his Majesty by any abbot, prior, abbess or prioress, under their covert seals, or that otherwise hath been suppressed or dissolved, and all and singular the manors, lands, tenements, rents, services, reversions, tithes, pensions, portions, churches, chapels, advowsons, patronages, rights, entries, conditions, and all other interests and hereditaments to the same monasteries, abbeys and priories, or to any of them appertaining or belonging; (4) to have and to hold all and singular the premisses, with all their rights, profits, jurisdictions and commodities, unto the King's majesty, and his heirs and assigns for ever, to do and use therewith his and their own wills, to the pleasure of Almighty God, and to the honours and profit of this realm.

II. And it is ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every person and persons, and bodies politic, which now have, or hereafter shall have, any letters patents of the King's highness, of any of the sites, circuits, manors, lands, tenements, rents, services, tithes, pensions, portions, churches, chapels, advowsons, patronages, tithes, entries, conditions, interests or other hereditaments, which appertained to any monasteries, abbeys or priories, heretofore given or granted to the King's highness, or otherwise suppressed or dissolved, or which appertaineth to any of the monasteries, abbeys, priories or other religious houses, that shall be suppressed or dissolved by the authority of this act, shall have and enjoy the said sites, circuits, manors, lands, tenements, rents, services, tithes, pensions, portions, churches, chapels, advowsons, patronages, tithes, entries, conditions, interests and all other hereditaments, contained and specified in their letters patents now being thereof made, and to be contained and expressed in any letters patents hereafter to be made, according to the tenor, purport and effect of any such letters patents.
patents; and shall also have all such actions, suits, entries and remedies to all intents and purposes, for any thing and things contained in any such letters-patents now made, or to be contained in any such letters hereafter to be made, in like manner, form and conditions, as the abbots, priors, abbesses, priories, and other chief governors of any religious houses which had the same, might or ought to have had, if they had not been suppressed or dissolved.

III. Saving to every person and persons, and bodies politic, their heirs and successors, (other than the abbots, priors, abbesses, priories, and other chief governors of the said religious houses specified in this act, and the covents of the same, and their successors, and such as pretend to be founders, patrons or donors of such religious houses, or of any lands, tenements or hereditaments belonging to the same, and their heirs and successors) all such right, title, interest, possessions, leases for years, rents, services, annuities, commodities, fees, offices, liberties and livings, pensions, portions, corvodies, synodies, proxies, and all other profits, as they or any of them hath, ought or might have had, in or to any of the said monasteries, abbeys, priories or other religious houses, or in or to any manors, lands, tenements, rents, revenues, tithes, pensions, portions, or other hereditaments appertaining or belonging, or that appertained to any of the said monasteries, priories or other religious houses as if the same monasteries, priories or other religious houses had not been suppressed by this act, but had continued in their essential bodies and states that they now be, or were in.

IV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That forasmuch as divers of the chief governors of such religious houses, determining the utter spoil and destruction of their houses, and dreading the suppressing thereof, for the maintenance of their detestable lives, have lately fraudulently and craftily made feoffments, eftates, gifts, grants and leases, under the covert seales, or suffered recoveries of their manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments in fee-simple, or fee-tail, for term of life or lives, or for years, or charged the same with rents or corrodies, to the great decay and diminution of the houses; that all such crafty and fraudulent recoveries, feoffments, eftates, gifts, grants and leases, and every of them, made by any of the said chief governors of such religious houses, under their covert seales, within one year next before the making of this act, shall be utterly void and of none effect: (2) Provided always, That such person and persons as have leases for term of life or years, whereupon is referred the old rents and terms accustomed, and such as have any offices, fees or corrodies, that have been accustomed or used in such religious houses, and have bought any livery or living in any such houses, shall have and enjoy their said leases, offices, fees, corrodies, liberties, liveries and livings, as if this act had never been made.

V. And it is further enacted, by authority aforesaid, That the Ornaments, King's highness shall have and enjoy to his own proper use, all such goods,
such ornaments, jewels, goods, chattels and debts, which appertained or belonged to any of the chief governors of the said monasteries or religious houses, in the right of their said monasteries or houses, at the first day of March in the year of our Lord God 1535, or any time fithen whensoever, and to whose possession soever they shall come or be found, except only such beasts, grain and woods, and such other like chattels and revenues, as have been before the said first day of March or fithen, for the necessary or reasonable expenses or charges of any of the said monasteries or houses.

Provided always, That such of the said chief governors which have been elect or made abbot, prior, abbes or priores of any of the said religious houses fithen the first day of January, which was in the year of our Lord God 1534, and by reason thereof be bounden to pay the first-fruits to the King's highnesses, at days to come, limited by their bonds made for the same, that in every such case such chief governors and their sureties, or any of them, shall be clearly discharged by authority of this act, against the King's highnesses, and all other persons, for the payment of such sums of money as they stand bounden to pay for the said first-fruits, or for any part thereof. And forasmuch as the clear yearly value of all the said monasteries, priories and other religious houses in this realm, is certified into the King's exchequer, amongst the books of the yearly valuation of all the spiritual possessions of this realm, amongst which shall and may appear the certainty and number of such small and little religious houses, as have not in lands, tenements, rents, tithes, portions and other hereditaments, above the said clear yearly value of two hundred pounds:

VI. Be it therefore enacted by authority aforesaid, That the King's highness shall have and enjoy, according to this act, the actual and real possession of all and singular such monasteries, priories and other religious houses, as shall appear by the said certificate remaining in the King's exchequer, not to have in lands, tenements, rents, tithes, portions and other hereditaments, above the said clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, so that his highness may lawfully give, grant and dispose them, or any of them, at his will and pleasure, to the honour of God, and the wealth of this realm, without farther inquisitions or offices to be had or found for the same.

* In consideration of which premises to be had to his highness, and to his heirs, as aforesaid, his Majesty is pleased and contented, of his most excellent charity, to provide to every chief head and governor of every such religious house, during their lives, such yearly pensions and benefices as for their degrees and qualities shall be reasonable and convenient, wherein his highness will have most tender respect to such of the said chief governors, as well and truly preserve and keep the goods and ornaments of their houses, to the use of his Grace, without spoil, waste, or embezzling the same; and also his Majesty will ordain and provide, that the coverts of every such religious house shall have
have their capacities, if they will, to live honestly and virtuously abroad, and some convenient charity disposed to them towards their living, or else shall be committed to such honourable great monasteries of this realm wherein good religion is observed, as shall be limited by his Highness, there to live religiously during their lives; and it is ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the chief governors and covents of such honourable great monasteries shall take and accept into their houses, from time to time, such number of the persons of the said covents as shall be assigned and appointed by the King's highness, and keep them religiously, during their lives, within their said monasteries, in like manner and form as the covents of such great monasteries be ordered and kept.

Provided always, that all archbishops, bishops and other persons which be or shall be chargeable to and for the collection of the tenths, granted and going out of the spiritual possessions.of this realm, shall be discharged and acquitted of and for such parts and portions of the said tenths wherewith the said houses of religion, suppressed and dissolved by this act, were charged or chargeable to the King's highness, except of such sums of money thereof, as they or any of them have or shall have received for the said tenths, of the chief governors of such religious houses.

Provided also, that where the clergy of the province of Canterbury stand and be indebted to the King's highness in great sums of money, remaining yet unpaid, of the rest of a hundred thousand pounds granted and given to his Grace in their convocation, towards the payment whereof the said religious houses should have been contributory if they had not been suppressed by this act; and also some of the governors of the said religious houses have been collectors for levying of the said debt, and have received thereof great sums of money yet remaining in their hands; the King's most royal majesty is pleased and contented to deduct, abate, release and desalk, to the said clergy, of the said rest yet unpaid, as well such sums of money as any of the chief governors of such religious houses hath received, and not paid, as so much money as every of the said religious houses, suppressed by this act, were rated and taxed to pay in any one year, to and for the payment of the said hundred thousand pounds: and also the King's majesty is pleased and contented, that it be enacted by authority aforesaid, that his Highness shall satisfy, content and pay all and singular such just and true debts which been owing to any person or persons by the chief governors of any of the said religious houses, in as large and ample manner as the said chief governors should or ought to have done if this act had never been made:

Provided always, that the King's highness, at any time after the making of this act, may at his pleasure ordain and declare, by his letters patents under his great seal, that such of the said religious houses which his Highness shall not be disposed to have suppressed nor dissolved by authority of this act, shall still continue,
Anno vicesimo septimo Henrici VIII. [1535.
continue, remain and be in the same body corporate, and in the said essential estate, quality and condition, as well in possessions as otherwise, as they were afore the making of this act, without any suppression or dissolution thereof, or of any part of the same, by authority of this act, and that any such ordinance and declaration, so to be made by the King’s highness, shall be good and effectual to the chief governors of such religious houses which his Majesty will not have suppressed, and to their successors, according to the tenors and purports of the letters patents thereof to be made; any thing or things contained in this act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

Provided also, That where the clergy of the province of York stand and be indebted to the King’s highness in great sums of money yet unpaid, of the rest of such sums of money which was granted by them to his Majesty in their convocation, towards the payment whereof the religious houses that shall be suppressed and dissolved by this act, being within the same province, should have been contributory if they had not been dissolved, and also some of the governors of the said religious houses within the said province, that shall be suppressed by this act, have been collectors for levying of part of the said sums of money granted to the King’s highness as is aforesaid, and have certain sums thereof in their hands yet unpaid, the King’s majesty is pleased and contented to deduct, abate, release and defalk, to the said clergy of the said province of York, of the rest of their said debt yet unpaid, as well such of the said sums of money, as any chief governors of any religious houses within the same province, that shall be suppressed by this act, hath collected and not paid, as so much money as every of the said religious houses, suppressed by this act, were rated and taxed to pay in any one year, towards the payment of the said sums of money granted to the King’s highness.

VII. Provided always, That this act, or any thing or things therein contained, shall not extend, nor be prejudicial to any abbots or priors of any monasteries or priories being certified into the King’s exchequer to have in possessions and profits spiritual and temporal above the clear yearly value of two hundred pounds, for or concerning such cells of religious houses, appertaining or belonging to their monasteries or priories, in which cells the priors or other chief governors thereof be under the obedience of the abbots or priors to whom such cells belong, as the monks or canons of the covent of their monasteries or priories, and cannot sue nor be sued, by the laws of this realm, in or by their own proper names, for the possessions or other things appertaining to such cells whereof they be priors or governors, but must sue and be sued in and by the names of the abbots or priors to whom they be obedience, and to whom such cells belong; (2) and also be priors or governors dative, and removable from time to time, and accountants of the profits of such cells, at the only pleasure and will of the abbots or priors to whom such cells belong; but that every such cell shall be
and remain undissolved in the same estate, quality and condition, as if this act had never been made; any thing in this act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

VIII. Saving always, and reserving unto every person and the right of persons, being founders, patrons or donors of any abbeys, priories or other religious houses, that shall be suppressed by this act, their heirs and successors, all such right, title, interest, possession, rents, annuities, fees, offices, leafes, commons, and all other profits whatsoever, which any of them have, or should have had, without fraud or covin, by any manner of means, otherwise than by reason or occasion of the dissolution of the said abbeys, priories or other religious houses, in, to or upon any the said abbeys, priories or other religious houses, whereof they be founders, patrons or donors, or in, to or upon any the lands, tenements or other hereditaments appertaining or belonging to the same, in like manner, form and condition, as other persons and bodies politic be saved by this act, as is afore rehearsed, and as if the said abbeys, priories or other religious houses had not been suppressed and dissolved by this act, but had continued still in their essential bodies and estates as they be now in; any thing in this act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

IX. And be it further enacted, ordained and established by authority aforesaid, That all and singular persons, bodies politic and corporate, to whom the King's majesty, his heirs and successors, hereafter shall give, grant, let or demise any site or precinct, with the houses thereupon builded, together with the demeans of any monasteries, priories or other religious houses, that shall be dissolved or given to the King's highness by this act, and the heirs, successors, executors and assigns of such person, body politic and corporate, shall be bound by authority of this act, under the penalties hereafter ensuing, to keep, or cause to be kept, an honest continual house and household in the same site or precinct, and to occupy yearly as much of the same demeans in ploughing and tillage of husbandry, that is to say, as much of the said demeans which hath been commonly used to be kept in tillage by the governors, abbots or priors of the same houses, monasteries or priories, or by their farmer or farmers occupying the same within the time of twenty years next before this act.

X. And if any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, that shall be bounden by this act, do not keep an honest household of husbandry and tillage, in manner and form as is aforesaid, that then he or they shall forfeit to the King's highness for every month so offending, six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence, to be recovered to his use in any of his courts of record.

XI. And over that it is enacted by authority aforesaid, That all justices of peace, in every shire where any such offence shall be committed or done, contrary to the true meaning and intent of this present act, shall, in every quarter and general sessions, within
within the limits of their commission, enquire of the premises, and shall have full power and authority to hear and determine the same, (2) and to tax and assess no less fine for every the said offences, than is afore limited for the same offences, (3) and the essets thereof to be made and certified into the King’s exchequer, according and at such time and form, as other essets of fines, issues and amerciements been made by the same justices.

Cui quidem bille perlept et talis est respols le Roy le vult.

Statutes made at Westminster, Anno 28 Hen. VIII.
and Anno Dom. 1536.

Acts made in the parliament begun and holden at Westminster the eighth day of June in the eight and twentieth year of the reign of our most dread sovereign lord King Henry the Eighth, and there continued and kept till the dissolution of the same parliament the eighteenth day of July, to the honour of God, and for the common weal and profit of this his realm.

Cap. I.

An act that abjurers in cases of petty treason shall not have clergy.

A rehearal of the statute of 2 Hen. VIII. c. 14.
touching the using of sanctuary persons.

Where in the last parliament begun and held at London the third day of November in the one and twentieth year of the King’s most gracious reign, and from thence adjourned to Westminster, and there holden and continued by divers and sundry prerogations, it was enacted, amongst other things, That such person and persons which did flee or resort to any parish church, cemetery or other like hallowed place, for tuition of his life, by occasion of any murder, robbery or other felony by the same person committed, and thereupon confessed any murder, felony or other offence before a coroner, for the which the same person, by the law of this realm aforesaid that time used, should abjure and paie out of this realm, shall be directed by the coroner to take his abjuration to any one sanctuary being within this realm, which the same person would elect and choose, there to remain as a sanctuary-man abjured during his natural life; (2) and if after such abjuration any person so abjured came out of the same sanctuary to the which he was assigned, and be taken without the same sanctuary, not having the King’s special pardon or licence so to do; that then every such person abjured, and after abjuration taken without sanctuary whereunto he was assigned, should suffer like pain of death, and after such like manner should be ordered, as he should have done and bidden in case he had abjured this realm for murder or felony, and after such abjuration had returned again into this realm, contrary