Statutes made at Westminster, Anno 37 Hen. VIII. and Anno Dom. 1545:

ST. TUTES made in the parliament holden at Westmin-
ster the twenty-third day of November in the seven and
thirtieth year of the most renowned Henry the Eighth, by the
grace of God, King of England, France and Ireland, defen-
der of the faith, and of the church of England, and also of
Ireland, in earth supreme head.

CAP. I.

A bill for custos rotulorum and the clerkship of the peace.

WHERE before this time the lord chancellor of England for
the time being hath, by reason of his office of the chancellorship,
the nomination and appointment of the custos rotulorum within all
and every shire of this realm of England and Wales, and other the
King’s dominions, marches and territories of the same, (2) and that
in like manner all and every person which hath had and enjoyed the said
office of the custos rotulorum, hath had, until now of late, the no-
mination and appointment of the clerk of the peace within such shires
where he or they had and enjoyed the said office of the custos rotu-
lorum: (3) and where now of late divers and sundry persons within
this realm, being not learned, nor yet meet able for lack of know-
ledge and learning to occupy and exercise the said offices of the custos
rotulorum, and of the clerkship of the peace, have of late years by la-
bour, friendship and means, attained and gotten for term of their lives,
of the King’s majesty, several grants by his Highness letters patents to
them made of the said clerkships of the peace; by reason whereof, and
for that the parties to whom the said several grants have been so made
and granted, have not been sufficiently learned to exercise and occupy
the same office and offices, many and sundry indictments, as well of
felony, murder and other offences and misdemeanors, and the process
awarded upon the same indictments, have not only been by reason there-
of made clearly frustrate and void, sometime by reason of the negligent
iniquity and keeping of the said indictments, and sometime by reason
of the imbecility or ruin of the same indictments, (4) but also div-
ers and sundry bargains and sales of divers and sundry manors, lands
and tenements had and made between party and party, have been made
frustrate and void for lack of sufficient inrollment of the same bargains
and sales, to be had and made by the clerks of the peace, to the great
bindrance of justice, and to the disinherition of divers of the King’s
most loving subjects:

II. For reformation whereof, and to the intent that justice
may be the better hereafter preferred, and that the same offices
may hereafter be occupied and exercised by such persons learned
in the laws of this realm, as shall be able to exercise and supply
the same: (2) be it enacted by the King our sovereign lord,
with the assent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and of the King’s own
commons,

The custos rotulorum shall be appointed in every coun-
try by bill signa-
ed with the
commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by authority of the same, That no person or persons shall from henceforth be nominated and appointed to the said office and offices of the custos rotulorum within any shire of this realm of England, Wales, and other the King's dominions, marches or territories of the same, but such as shall have a bill signed with the King's hand for the same; (3) which bill signed shall be a sufficient warrant by the authority aforesaid, to the said lord chancellor of England, and the lord keeper of the great seal for the time being, to make from time to time commission or commissions, assigning and authorizing thereby the same person to be custos rotulorum, until the King hath, by another bill assigned with his own hand, appointed and ordained one other person to have, occupy and exercise the same office of the custos rotulorum, (4) and that the said person appointed and assigned to be custos rotulorum as is aforesaid, shall and may occupy, exercise and enjoy the same office of the custos rotulorum, by himself, or by his sufficient deputy, learned in the laws of this realm, and meet and able to supply the said office according to the tenor of the said grant or commission.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority of this present parliament, That every custos rotulorum for the time being shall, at all times hereafter in every shire of this realm, Wales, and other the King's dominions, marches and territories of the same, nominate, elect, appoint and assign all and every person and persons which hereafter shall be clerks of the peace within any of the said shires of this realm of England, Wales, and other the King's dominions, marches and territories of the same, (2) and to give and grant the said office and offices of the clerkship of the peace to such able person instructed in the laws of this realm, shall be able to exercise and occupy the same, to hold and enjoy the same during the time that the said custos rotulorum shall occupy and exercise the forenamed office of custos rotulorum, so that the said clerk demean him in the said office justly and honestly; (3) and that it shall be lawful to every such grantees of the said clerkship, to occupy and enjoy the same office of the clerkship of the peace, by himself, or by his sufficient deputy instructed in the laws of this realm, so that the same deputy be admitted, taken and reputed by the said custos rotulorum, to be sufficient and able to exercise, occupy, keep and enjoy the same office of the clerkship of the peace.

IV. Provided alway, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all such as now have any of the said offices of custos rotulorum, or clerkship of the peace, by the King's letters patents or commission to them made, shall and may enjoy, have and exercise their said offices by virtue of the same letters patents or commission, by themselves, or by their sufficient and able deputy instructed in the laws of this realm; any thing in this present act had or made to the contrary notwithstanding.

V. Provided also, and be it enacted by authority aforesaid, That the archbishop of York, the bishop of Durham, the bishop of Ely, and every of their successors, and all and every such person and persons, corporations and bodies incorporated, to whom the
the King's majesty, or any of his noble progenitors by his or clerk of the
their letters patents have given and granted any liberty and au-
thoraity, or otherwise have authority by other lawful means or
ways, to ordain, make and constitute any of the said offices of
cylos rotulorum, or clerk of the peace, within any county pa-
lamine, or other place, shall and may have and enjoy the fame
liberty and authority, according as they have had and enjoyed the
fame; any thing in this present act had or made to the
contrary notwithstanding.

CAP. II.

Hounslow-heath in the county of Middlesex, which doth contain
four thousand two hundred four score and thirteen acres and
one rood of ground, extendeth into several parishes: so much
thereof as is the King's inheritance, and is meet for tillage,
pasture, meadow or other several ground, shall be of the na-
ture and condition of copyhold land: or the same may be
letten by the steward of the manor at will, or for twenty-one
years, which lease shall or may improve it.

CAP. III.

Huntingdon-lane near the city of Chester, being in length two
miles and half, shall be from time to time repaired by one
that shall dwell in the said lane, and shall have pasture for five
kine or beasts in the highway from Bothell to Butterbach-bridge,
Sir William Stanley and Sir Hugh Calverley, and their heirs male,
being of full age, and in default of them, the mayor and al-
dermen of Chester, shall appoint the same party, and remove
him if he be negligent in repairing any part of the said way.

CAP. IV.

A bill for colleges, chantries, &c.

In their most humble wise shewn unto your royal Majesty your loving
subjects, the lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons, of this
present parliament assembled, That whereas there have been divers col-
leges, free chapels, chantries, hospitals, fraternities, brotherhoods,
guilds and stipendary priests, having perpetuity for ever within this
your realm of England, Wales, and the marches of the same, of
which, some of them by the licence of your gracious Highness, or of
your noble progenitors, and some of them by feoffments and wills there-
upon declared, and some of them by other devises, conveyance and assu-
rance, have been incorporated, established, founded, erected, bad or
made by divers names, surnames, degrees and corporations, to have had
a perpetual continuance for ever; (2) mention which time divers and
many of the donors, founders or patrons, or such as pretend to be do-
nors, founders or patrons of the same colleges, free chapels, chantries,
hospitals, fraternities, brotherhoods, guilds, and stipendary priests,
and divers other, of their avaricious and covetous minds, and of their
own authority, without your gracious licence, have of late entered in
the mansion houses, manors, lands, tenements and other heredita-
mants, to the same colleges, free chapels, chantries, hospitals, frater-
nities, brotherhoods, guilds and stipendary priests belonging and apper-
saining,