

land, the Lord Treasurer, the Lord President of the Kings Councell, and the Lord priuie Seale, or two of them for the time being at the least, both knowledging themselves to be his highnesse true and loyall subjects, and declaring themselves to be content willingly to obserue, keepe and maintaine all the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, as to good and true subjects apperteineth, or else the same confrere or confreres, making default of such his repaire and presentment as is beforesaid, shall in no wise claime and enioy any pension by vertue of this act, any thing in the same contained notwithstanding, vnlesse the person or persons so making default of repaire and appearance, can shew and declare themselves to haue been deteined, or by a necessary meane impeached and letted of their will, purpose, and desire to haue come hither and to haue accomplished the whole contents of this Statute accordingly.

Anno primo EDWARDI sexti.

Statutes made in the Parliament begunne at *Westminster*, the fourth day of *November* in the first yeere of the Raigne of EDWARD the sixt, late King of *England*, &c. and from thence continued to the 24. day of *December* then next ensuing, that is to say in the first Session of the same Parliament as followeth.

C A P. III.

An Act for the punishing of Vagabonds, and for the reliefe of the poore and impotent persons.

‘ **F**ORasmuch as idlenesse and vagabondrie is the mother and
 ‘ roote of all thefts, robberies and all euill actes and other
 ‘ mischiefes, and the multitude of people giuen thereto hath
 ‘ alwayes bene heere within this realme very great, and more
 ‘ in number (as it may appeare) then in other regions, to the
 ‘ great impouerishment of the Realme, and danger of the Kings
 ‘ highnesse subjects; the which idlenesse and vagabondry all the
 ‘ Kings highnesse noble progenitours, Kings of this Realme,
 ‘ and this high Court of Parliament hath often and with great
 ‘ trauell gone about and assayed with godly Acts and Statutes
 ‘ to repressse; yet vntill this our time it hath not had that suc-
 ‘ cesse which hath bene wished, but partly by foolish pitie and
 ‘ mercie of them which should haue seene the said godly lawes
 ‘ executed, partly by the peruerse nature and long accustomed
 ‘ idlenesse of the persons giuen to loytering, the said godly Sta-
 ‘ tutes hitherto haue had small effect, and idle and vagabond
 ‘ persons, being vnprofitable members, or rather enemies of the
 ‘ common wealth, haue bene suffred to remaine and increase,
 ‘ and yet so doe, whom if they should be punished by death,
 ‘ whipping, imprisonment, and with other corporall paine, it
 ‘ were not without their deserts for the example of others, and
 ‘ to the benefite of the common wealth, yet if they could be
 ‘ brought

‘ brought to be made profitable, and do seruice, it were much
 ‘ to be wished and desired :’ Be it therefore enacted by the
 Kings highnesse, with the consent of the Lords spirituall and
 temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament affem-
 bled, and by authoritie of the same; first that all Statutes and
 Acts of Parliament heretofore made for the punishment of va-
 gabonds and sturdie beggars, and all articles comprised in the
 same, shall be from hencefoorth repealed, voyd and of none
 effect.

II. Secondly, that whosoever after the first day of *Aprill* next
 following, man or woman being not lame, impotent, or so aged,
 or diseased with sicknesse, that hee or she cannot worke, nor
 hauing lands or tenements, fees, annuities, or any other yeerely
 reuenues, or whereon they may finde sufficiently their liuing,
 shall either like a seruing-man wanting a master, or like a beg-
 ger, or after any such other sort be lurking in any house or
 houses, or loitering, or idle wandering by the high wayes side,
 or in streetes, cities, townes, or villages, not applying them-
 selues to some honest and allowed art, science, seruice, or labour,
 and so doe continue by the space of three dayes or more toge-
 ther, and not offer themselues to labor with any that will take
 them, according to their facultie; and if no man, otherwise
 wil take them, do not offer themselues to worke for meate and
 drinke, or after they bee so taken to worke, for the space agreed
 betwixt them and their master, doe leaue their worke out of
 conuenient time, or runne away; that then every such person
 shall bee taken for a vagabond, and that it shal be lawfull for
 euery such master offering such idle person seruice and labour,
 and that being by him refused, or who hath agreed with such
 idle person, and from whom within the space agreed of seruice,
 the said loiterer hath runne away, or departed before the ende of
 the couenant betweene them, and to any other person espying
 the same, to bring or cause to be brought the said person so liuing
 idle and loiteringly, to two of the next Iustices of the peace there
 resiant or abiding, who hearing the prooffe of the idle liuing of
 the said person by the said space liuing idle, as before said, ap-
 prooued to them by two honest witnesses, or confession of the
 partie, shall immediately cause the same loiterer to be marked
 with a hot iron in the breast, the marke of V. and adiudge the
 same person liuing so idle, to such presentour, to be his slaue,
 to haue and to holde the said slaue vnto him, his executours, or
 assignes, for the space of two yeeres then next following, and to
 order the said slaues as followeth; that is to say, to take such
 person adiudged a slaue with him, and onely giuing the said
 slaue bread and water, or small drinke, and such reffuse of
 meate as he shall thinke meete, cause the said slaue to worke
 by beating, cheining, or otherwise, in such worke and labour
 (how vile soeuer it bee) as hee shall put him vnto. And if any
 manner of slaue, either for loytering, or for the cause before, re-
 hearded so adiudged, shall within the space of the said two yeeres
 heere appointed runne away, depart, or absent him from his
 saide

saide master by the space of fourteene dayes together; without licence: it shall not onely bee lawfull to his said master to pursue and fetch him againe by vertue of this Act, but also, to punish such faulte by cheines or beating as is aforesaid: and against the deteinour, if any man doe willingly deteine him, knowing him to be a slaue, as is aforesaid, to haue an Action of Trespasse, and recover thereby in damages tenne poundes, besides the costes and charges of the suite for so detaining his saide slaue. And further, euery such master shewing and prouing by two sufficient witnesses, the saide offence and fault by his running away before two Iustices of Peace of the same Countie, whereof the one to be of the *Quorum*, the same Iustices shall cause such Slave, or loiterer to bee marked on the forehead, or the ball of the cheeke with an hot iron, with the sign of an S. that he may bee knowne for a loiterer and a run away, and shall adiudge the loyterer and run away to be the said masters slaue for euer. And if such slaue shall the second time runne away, or absent himselfe, if the said master shall approve the same second running away with two sufficient witnesses, before the Iustices of Peace, in their generall and quarter Sessions, then euery such faulte and running away to be adiudged felonie and such loyterer and runne away to be taken as a felon, and thereof being lawfully indited and atteinted, or otherwise, condemned, to suffer paines of death, as other felons ought to doe.

III. Prouided also, and be it enacted by authoritie aforesaid, that no Clerke conuicted shall hereafter make his purgation, and vpon such purgation be deliuered, and set at large, otherwise then is in this Statute hereafter expressed.

IV. And be it further enacted by authoritie aforesaid, that euery Clerke conuict, or hereafter to be conuicted, which should by the order of the Law inioy the benefit of their purgation, shall and may from hencefoorth finde any man (if hee can) who shall be bounde with two sufficient sureties to the ordinarie, in the summe of twentie poundes to the Kings highnesse vse, to reteine the said conuict as his slaue, and to keepe the said person so conuict for the space of one yeere then next following, that he shall not goe abroad, and at larges, and then the said conuict shall be deliuered to the said person so taking the same, and being bound, as is aforesaid, to be his slaue for one whole yeere then next following by vertue of this Act, in all such manner and forme, and to all such intents and purposes, and with all such order, lawes, conditions and penalties for running away, or otherwise, as is aforesaid of a vagabond taken loytering, and made a slaue (burning in the breast onely except) and the ordinarie by the deliury of the said conuict to such person being bound, as is aforesaid, to be of the keeping of the said conuict cleerely discharged, and exonerated by vertue of this Act.

V. And if so be that the said Clerke so conuict cannot finde any man to be bounde, as is aforesaid, to whom he may bee adiudged a slaue in the space of one yeere; then at any time after the ende of one yeere after his conuiction, it shall bee lawfull

full for the said Clerke conuict to make his purgation, as hee might before this Statute, any thing in this present Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

‘ VI. And when the Clerkes conuicted, or attainted by the
‘ order of the Lawes of this Realme, cannot make their pur-
‘ gation, and should perpetually by the same remaine in pri-
‘ son:’ Bee it neuerthelesse enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, that if there bee any manner of person, who will at any time demand the same Clerke conuicted, or attainted, and be bound to the Ordinarie with two sufficient sureties, as is aboue written, to keepe the same as his slaue by the space of five yeeres then next following, that then the same shall bee adiudged his slaue for like space, with all such orders, lawes & penalties, for running away, and other orders, as is before expressed of a vagabond, adiudged to any man for a slaue, (the burning in the breast onely except) and vpon the adiudgement deliuered to such demandant, the Ordinarie from thensefoorth of the keeping of such Clerke conuicted or attainted, cleerely exonerated, and discharged by vertue of this Act.

‘ VII. And forasmuch as diuers women and men goe on
‘ begging waifaring, of the which some bee impotent and lame,
‘ and some able enough to labour, which doe carrie children about with them, some foure or five yeeres of age, or yonger
‘ or elder, which brought vp in idlenesse might be so rooted in
‘ it, that hardly they may be brought after to good thrift and
‘ labour: or if any child aboue the age of five yeeres, and vnder the age of fourteene yeeres goe idle and wandering about
‘ as a vagabond:’ Be it enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, that if any manner of person will take any such childe, be it male or female, of, and from any such beggar being the mother thereof, nourisher, or keeper, whether they bee willing or not, or without any such nurse, mother or keeper by himselfe wandering, and bring the said child so taken away before one of the Constables of the parish, and two other honest and discrete neighbours witnesses, and before any Justice of Peace there resiant and abiding, and promise to bring the same child vp in some honest labour or occupation, till hee or shee come to the age of twentie yeeres the woman childe, or foure and twentie the man childe: that then and immediately the said Justice of Peace and Constable shall adiudge by vertue of this Act, the said child vnto the ages before specified, to be seruants or apprentices to the said persons so taking & promising to be vsed and ordered in all points according as the Law and custome of this Realme is of seruants and apprentices, to what labour, occupation, or seruice soeuer the said Master shall appoint him, or her, during the said time. And if it shall fortune such childe so adiudged to runne away, at any time once, or more times, from his or her Master, or Masters, that then it shall be lawfull for euery such master to take the said child againe, and to keepe and punish the said childe in chaines or otherwise, and vse him or her as his slaue in all points for the time before rehearsed,
of

of the age of such childe, that is to say, till twentie the woman child, and the man child foure and twentie.

VIII. Prouided alwayes, that any Master, either of the men, or of the women so adiudged slaues, or of the children adiudged apprentices or seruants, may let, set forth, sell, bequeath, or giue the seruice and labour of such slaues or seruants so adiudged, as is aforesaid, to any person or persons, to whomsoever he will, vpon such condition, and for such time of yeeres, as the said persons bee adiudged to him for slaues, seruants, or apprentices, after such like sort and maner, as he may doe of any other his moouable goods or chattels; and they for the said space and time to be bound to all points and constructions to such *Lessee, donee, vendee, or assignee*, as they were to their first apprehenders and masters, by vertue of this Act.

IX. Prouided alwayes, and bee it enacted by authoritie aforesaid, that if any such slaue or slaues, or children so adiudged, shall at any time after such adiudgement, maim or wounde their Masters or Mistresses, in resisting their correction or otherwise, or when they bee manumitted or set againe free, or in the time of their seruice, shall conspire with any other, or by themselves goe about to murder and kill, or to maim, wounde, or beate the saide Master or Mistresse, or any that was their Master or Mistresse, or to burne their houses, barnes, or corne, so that their intent come to an act tending to the effect: that then euery such maim or wounde, or the going about to murder, kill, maim, wounde, or beate such person or persons, as bee, or were their Maister or Mistresses, or to burne their houses, barnes, or corne, so that their intent doe come to any act tending to the same effect, as lying in waite with weapon, or any such like, shall bee accounted felonie, and they shall suffer therefore paines of death, as in case of felonie, except that any such person or persons, as bee, or had beene Master or Mistresse to any of them, or he refusing any other, will take such person so offending to their slaues, & then he or she so offending, to be adiudged to the person so willing to take him or her so offending slaue for euer, and thereupon to be discharged of the felony. The same law and order to be had in all conditions if it should chaunce the father, mother, nurse, or other the bearer about of the childe, or any other person or persons, to steale away such childe adiudged apprentice or seruant, that is, to be slaue to such apprentices or seruants master, whose apprentice or seruant was so stollen or intised away, for euer, and the master neuerthelessse to take and receiue his apprentice or seruant againe, as if the said taking away had never been done.

X. Bee it also enacted by authorite aforesayde, that although there bee no man which shall demanda such loiterer or loiterers, as before expresse, into their seruice; yet neuertheless the Justice of Peace in that Citie, Borough, Towne, or Hundred dwelling, if any such be, or else any other Justice of Peace of the same Shire, and also there dwelling by his or their office, shall bee hereafter bound by vertue of this Act, not onely to in-

inquire of all such idle persons, but also if they doe espy any such vacabonds or idle persons, or if any such bee detected, vnto them, to examine him or her of the time of their vagabondrie; and if it shall appeare to any Justice of Peace, any such man or woman to haue beene a vagarant and vagabond or idle person, by the space as is aforesayde, to cause the same to bee marked on the breast with an V. made with an hot iron, and also to learne and inquire of him the Towne, Citie or Village wherein he was borne, and then shall immediately giue a writing in parchment, sealed with his seale to the sayde loiterer, of the tenor and forme which here insueth:

‘ *A. B.* Justice of Peace in the Countie of *S.* to the Maior or chief officer of the City of *Q.* (if it be a City) or to the Head-borough, Bailife, or Constable, or head officer of the towne of *Q.* (if it be a towne) or to the Constable or Tithingman of the village of *C.* (if it be a village) greeting. According to a most godly Statute, made in the first yere of the reigne of our sovereign Lord King *Edward* the sixt, &c. We haue taken this bearer *I. K.* vagarantly, and to the euill example of others, without master, seruice, or labour, whereby to get his liuing, going loitering idly about. And because the same saith, hee was in *C.* in the County of *S.* whereof you are the head officer or Constable: We haue sent him to you to be ordered, according to the purport and effect of the same Statute:’

A testimonial
for a vaga-
bond.

XI. And with this writing shall deliuer the same loiterer to the Constables, or other head officer of the sayde City, Towne or Village, wherein such loiterer was taken, to bee safely conueied by them to the next Constable, and so from Constable to Constables, and other head officers, till he or she be brought to the place, the which he or she hath named themselves to bee borne in, and then to be deliuered to the head officer or Constable of that same citie, borough or towne, village, hamlet, or parish, there to bee nourished and kept of the same citie, towne, or village in chaines, or otherwise, either at the common workes, in amending high waies, or other common worke, or from man to man in order, till they which may beare bee equally charged, to bee slaue to the corporation of the citie, or to the inhabitants of the towne or village, that hee or shee were borne in, after all such forme, condition, space of yeeres, orders, punishments for running awaie, and all others, as are expressed of a common or priuate person, to whom any such loiterer is adjudged a slaue. And the sayde citie, towne, or village shall see the saide slaue being able to labor, set on worke, and not liue idlie within the saide precincts, vpon peine for euerie such default that the said slaue doth liue idlie, by the default of the city, borough, towne, or village, by the space of three working daies together, the citie to forfeit five pounds: a borough or towne incorporate fortie shillings: and other towne or village twentie shillings: whereof the one halfe to the King our Soueraine

reign Lord, the other to him that will sue for the same, in any of the Kings Courts of Record, by bill, information, or action of debt, in such suites no essoine, wager of law, or protection shall be allowed.

XII. Provided and be it enacted, that the citie, towne, and borough corporate, by the consent of the more part of the corporation, and the towne and village not corporate by the consent of the more part of the inhabitants thereof, may set, sell or giue away, the right, title, and interest of the said slaue, to any other person, as any other common or priuate person may doe with his slaue, by the vertue of this act.

XIII. Prouided alwaies and be it enacted, that if it fortune when the said vagabond is brought to the said citie, towne, or village, where the said person said he was borne, to appeare and be manifest that he or she was not there borne; that then for such lie, the said vagrant shall bee marked in the face with an S. and be slaue to the inhabitants, or corporation of the citie, towne, or village where the said vagrant said he was borne in, for euer, upon such conditions and orders, in all points as of a slaue marked in the face is before expressed: the same law and order in all points to bee had of all vagrant persons and vagabonds, being borne in any other nation or countrie then in this Realm, as is before expressed of *English* idle persons (marking in the brest or face, onely excepted) that is to bee had to the next Port, and there to bee kept of the inhabitants of the sayde next Port in conuenient labour, and from idlenesse or otherwise, till they may bee conueyed ouer; and then at the costs of the inhabitants of the sayd Port, to bee conueyed ouer into their countries.

XIV. And forasmuch as there is many maimed and otherwise lamed, sore, aged, and impotent persons, which resort to the City of *London*, and to other cities, townes, and villages, on begging, which comming together and making a number, doe fill the streets or highwaies of diuers cities, townes, markets and faires; who, if they were separated might easily bee nourished in the townes and places wherein they were borne, or where they were, or haue been most conuersant and abiding, by the space of three yeeres.' Be it therefore enacted by the authoritie aforesaide, that all and singular Maiors, Shirifs, Bailifs, Constables, or other head officers of any citie, towne, or hundred, to which such resort is or shall be, shall before the feast of the Purification of our Lady next following, see all such idle, impotent, maimed, and aged persons, who otherwise cannot by their discretions bee taken for vagabonds, which were borne within the said citie, towne, or hundred, or haue been there most conuersant and abiding, by the space of three yeeres, as is aforesayde, and now decayed, bestowed and prouided for of tenantries, cottages, or other conuenient houses to bee lodged in, at the costs and charges of the sayde cities, townes, boroughs, and villages, there to be relieued and cured by the deuotion of the good people of the sayde citie, borough, towne,

or

or village. And that they doe not suffer after the time before rehearsed, any other then such as either were borne, or haue been for the most part conuersant or abiding, by the space aforesaide, in the said citie, borough, village, or towne, to remaine and beg abroad within the precincts of such cities, townes, villages, or hundreds, vpon peine that euerie such Maiors, Shiriffes and Bailiffes, Constable, or other officer, by what name soeuer hee bee called, suffering any persons to beg within the precinct of his or their such iurisdiction, other then is before rehearsed, for euerie three days shall forfeit ten shillings to whomsoever will sue therefore, by bill, information, or action of debt, in any court of record, in which suites no essoine, wager of law nor protection shal be allowed.

XV. And for the better performance hereof, bee it enacted by the authority aforesayde, that the Maior of the citie of *London*, and all other Maiors, Bailifs, Shirifs, Constables, and other head officers of euerie Citie, and Towne corporate, doe with all conuenient speed by themselues, or by their sufficient deputies by them appointed, before the feast of the Purification next comming; and so from time to time, every moneth once, make a view and examination of aged, impotent, and lame persons and beggers, as be within the precinct of their iurisdiction, and see all such as were not borne, nor hath been for the most part conuersant and abiding there by the space of three yeeres complete, conueied on horsebacke, cart, or chariot, or otherwise, as shall seeme by their discretions to the next Constables, & they to conuey the same to the next Constables, and so from Constables to Constables, till the saide persons be brought to the place where they were borne or most conuersant and abiding, as is aforesaid, there to be provided for, kept, and nourished of alms, as is aforesaid, vpon the peine that euerie such Maior, Shiriffe, or Constable, Headborough, or Head officer, not making view, nor sending or conueying away, nor receiuing or not providing, as is before appointed, according to the true purport or meaning of this act, to forfeit for euerie such default lx. shillings, whereof the one halfe to be to the Kings vse, the other to the partie that will sue therefore in any of the Kings courts of Record, by bill, information, or action of debts, in the which suites no essoine, wager of law, nor protection shal be allowed.

XVI. Prouided alwaies, that if any of the said aged, maimed, or impotent persons of the Cities, Townes, or Villages where they were borne in, or had their most abiding as is aforesaid, bee not so lame or impotent, but that they may worke in some manner of worke, that then such Citie, Towne, Parish, or Village, doe eyther in common prouide some such worke for them as they might bee occupied in, or appoint them to such as will finde them worke for meat and drinke. And if they refuse of wilfulnesse and stubbornnesse to worke, or doe runne away and beg in other places, then to punish the same according to their discretions, with chaining, beating, or otherwise, as shall seeme to them conuenient. And for the more further-

ance of the reliefe of such as are in vnfaigned miserie, and to whom charitie ought to be extended: Bee it enacted by authoritie aforesayde, that euerie *Sunday* and Holiday after the reading of the Gospell of the day, the Curate of euerie Parish doe make (according to such talent as God hath given him) a godly and brieve exhortation to his Parishoners, mouing and exciting them to remember the poore people, and the dutie of Christian charitie, in relieuing of them which be their brethren in Christ, borne in the same Parish, and needing their helpe.

XVII. Prouided alwaies, that if it shall chance any such adjudged apprentice, servant, or slaue, as is before rehearsed, to haue inheritance descended vnto him, or hir, or any other waies by the Lawes of this Realm, Ward, or Bondman, or Neife of bloud, by, or from any of his auncestors, to any person or persons; that then it shalbe lawfull to any person or persons, to whom any such Ward, Bondman, or Neife shall apperteine, to take and seise such Wards, Bondmen, or Neifes, and them to returne and keepe as their Wards, Bondmen, or Neifes. And the said Wards, Bondmen, and Neifes shalbe discharged of the said slavery or other seruitude or bondage aboue rehearsed: this statute or any thing therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

XVIII. And also be it enacted, that if any such seruant, apprentice, slaue, or slaues, which shall haue at any time heer-after any aduancement or liuing, accrue, come, or growe vnto him, or any of them; whereby hee or they may haue a conuenient liuing, that then and from thenceforth hee or they so being aduanced, to bee discharged of their slavery, seruitude and bondage: this act or any thing therein contained to the contrarie in any wise notwithstanding. And if any woman being a seruant apprentice, or slaue, as is aforesayde, being married within the age of twenty yeres without assent of her master, vntil she shall accomplish and come to the said age of twenty yeres, only excepted.

XIX. Be it also enacted, That all leproous and poore bedred creatures whatsoeuer they bee, may at their owne libertie remaine and continue in such houses appointed for leproous or bedred people, as they now be in, and shall not be compelled to repaire into any other countries or places by vertue of this act: any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. And that also it shall bee lawfull vnto the sayde leproous and bedred people, for their better relieves, to appoint their proctor or proctors, so there be not appointed aboue the number of two persons, for any one house of leproous, bedred people, to gather the charitable almes of all such inhabitants as shal be within the compasse of foure miles, of any of the said houses of leproous and bedred persons.

XX. And bee it ordeined and enacted by the authoritie abouesaid, That it shall bee lawfull to euerie person, to whom any person in forme abouesaid, shall bee adjudged a slaue, to put a ring of iron about his necke, arme, or his leg, for a more know-

knowledge and suretie of the keeping of him. And that if any person or persons doe take, or helpe to take any such bond of iron from any such slaue, that then euerie person so doing, without licence or assent of his master, shall forfeit for euery such default ten pounds sterling.

XXI. Bee it further enacted, That this present act shall before the first day of *March* next comming, bee openly proclaimed in euerie Citie, corporate Town, and market Towne, vpon the market daie: and also from thenceforth shall yerely be read in euerie Shire openly, in two generall quarter Sessions of Peace, that is to say, at the generall quarter Sessions next after *Midsummer*, and the generall quarter Sessions next after *Christmasse*, to the intent that euerie person may haue knowledge thereof, and that this act shall indure vnto the end of the next Parliament.

XXII. Prouided alwaies and bee it enacted, That it shall bee lawfull to the Lord Chaunceller of *England*, or to the Lord Keeper of the great Seale for the time being, at their discretions to grant commission vnder the great Seale of *England*, to euerie or any person or persons, that hath or shall haue his or their houses or barnes burnt, of such losses, to gather the reliefe and charitie of others for their ayde and helpe of his or their losses, decay, or hinderance, as in time hath past beene vsed: any thing contained in this act notwithstanding.

Anno tertio & quarto EDWARDI sexti.

ACTS made in the Session of Parliament holden vpon Prorogation at *Westminster*, on the fourth day of *November*, in the third yeere of the reigne of our late Soueraigne Lord EDWARD the sixt late King of *England*, and there continued and kept vntil the first day of *February* in the fourth yeere of the reigne of the said King, as followeth.

CAP. XVI.

An Act touching the punishment of Vagabonds and other idle Persons.

FORASMUCH as it is notoriously seene and knowen, that Vagabonds and Beggars doe daily increase within this the Kings highnesse Realme into very great numbers, chiefly by occasion of idlenes, mother and root of all vices, whereby doe insue continuall thefts, murders, conspiracies, and other sundry heinous offences, and partly for that the good and wholesome lawes and Statutes of this Realme, hath not beene put in due execution, and partly also, by reason of the multitude of the same (the extremitie of some whereof haue beene occasion that they haue not beene put in vre) therefore, and

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for