

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 bene vfed: 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 bene put in due execution, and partly also, by reason of the multitude of the same (the extremitie of some whereof haue bene occasion that they haue not bene put in vre) therefore, and

Repeale.

‘ for diuers good considerations it is enacted by the King our
 ‘ Souereigne Lord, with the assent of the Lords Spirituall and
 ‘ Temporall, and the commons in this present Parliament as-
 ‘ sembled, and by the authoritie of the same :’ That the Sta-
 tute made in the first yeere of the Kings highnes most noble
 reigne concerning idle persons and Vacabonds in certaine cases,
 to be made slaues and so forth, and all and euery article, matter,
 prouiso, branch, and sentence therein contained, shall be from
 hencefoorth vtterly repealed, made frustrate, voide, and of none
 effect.

Confirmation.

II. And that the Statute concerning how aged impotent per-
 sons should be ordered for their better reliefe, and how Vaca-
 bonds and strong Beggars should be punished, made in the
 xxii. yeere of the late King of most famous memorie King
Henrie the eight, and euery matter, article, prouiso, branch, and
 sentence therein contained, to be from hencefoorth reuiued,
 made good, and stand in full strength and vertue, and shall con-
 tinue and remaine a perfect act of Parliament for euer.

III. And be it therefore enacted by the authoritie aforesayd,
 That all Iustices of peace, and euery of them within the limits
 of their commission, and the Maiors, Shiriffes, Bailiffes, and
 other officers within their seueral rules and offices, shall within
 their seueral limits assemble together and make their seueral di-
 uision, according to the purport and effect of this act, at the
 next generall quarter sessions of the peace to be holden after the
 feast of *Easter* next to come, for the due, speedy and diligent
 execution of the same act. And that if any such aged or im-
 potent person after the feast of *Easter* next to come, shall offend
 contrary to this Statute, that then the sayd offender shall be
 vsed and punished, as in the same Statute of the two and twen-
 tieth yeere of King *Henrie* the eight is provided. And that be-
 fore the feast of *Easter* no punishment shall be put in execution
 against any such impotent, lame, and aged person, but only by
 the discretion of the next Justice of peace of the same Shire where
 such an offender shall be apprehended, any thing in the sayd Act
 to the contrarie notwithstanding.

IV. And for the auoiding of the idle loitering of common
 labourers of husbandry within this Realme: be it enacted by
 the authoritie aforesayd, That such common labourers, being
 persons able in body, vsing loitering, and refusing to worke for
 such reasonable wages as is most commonly given in the partes
 where such persons shall dwell, shall bee for euery such time as
 he or they refuse to labour, hauing reasonable wages, as is aforesayd,
 adiudged Vacabonds, and shall be punished as strong and
 mighty Vacabonds, in such maner and forme as is declared in
 the sayd act of two and twentieth against vacabonds. *And touch-
 ing maimed, lamed and sore, aged and impotent persons, which re-
 sorte to the Citie of London, and to other Citie, Townes and vil-
 lages on begging:* Bee it enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That
 all and singular Maiors, Shiriffes, Bailiffes, Constables, or
 other head officers of any Citie, Towne or village, to which
 such

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 be taken for vacabonds, which were borne within the sayd Citie, Towne or village, or haue beene there most conuersant abiding by the space of three yeeres, and now decayed, bestowed and provided for, of the Tenantries, Cottages, or other conuenient houses to be lodged in, at the costs and charges of the sayd Cities, Townes, Boroughs, and villages, there to be relieued, and cured by the deuotion of good people of the sayd Citie, Borough, Towne or village, and that they doe not suffer after the time before rehearsed, any other then such as either were borne, or hath been for the most part conuersant, or abiding by the space of three yeeres, as is aforesayd in the sayd Borough, Towne, or Village, to remaine and beg abroad within the precincts of such Cities, Townes, Villages, or Boroughs, *Except it be such as haue letters, or are authorisid or licensed by force of this Act*: Upon paine that euery such Maiors, Shiriffes, and Bailiffes, Constable, or other head officer, by what name soeuer he be called, suffering any person to beg within the precinct of his or their such iurisdiction, other then is before rehearsed, for euery three daies shall forfeit ten shillings, to whom soeuer will sue therefore, by bill, information, or Action of debt, in any Court of record, in the which sutes, no Essoine, no wager of law, or protection shall be allowed for the defendant.

V. And be it further enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That the Maior of the Citie of *London*, and all other Maiors, Bailiffes, Shiriffes, Constables, and other head officers of euery Citie, Borough, or Towne corporate, and of euery other Towne and Village, doe with all conuenient speede by themselues or their sufficient deputies, before the feast of the Purification of our Lady next comming, and so from time to time euery moneth once, make a view and examination of aged, impotent, and lame persons, beggers, as be within the precinct of their iuridictions, and see all such as were not borne nor haue beene for the most part conuersant and abiding by the space of three yeeres complete, or haue not letters, and authorisid or licensed by the force of this Statute, conueied on horseback, Cart, or otherwise, as shall seem by their discretions, to the next Constables, and they to conueie the same to the next Constables, and so from Constable to Constable, till the sayd persons be brought to the place where they were borne, or most conuersant and abiding, as is aforesayd, there to be provided for, kept and nourished of Almes, as is aforesayd, vpon the paine that euery such Maior, Shiriffe or Constable, headborough, or other head officers, not making view, nor sending or conueying away, nor receiuing or not prouiding, as is before appointed, according to the true purport or meaning of this Act, to forfeit for euery such default ten shillings, whereof the one halfe shall be to the Kings vse, the other to the party that will sue therefore in any of the Kings Courts of record, by bill, information, Action of debt, in the

which futes, no Effoime, wager of law, or Protection shall be allowed for the defendant.

VI. Provided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforefayd, That if any of the fayd aged, maimed, or impotent persons, of the Cities, Townes, or villages where they were borne in, or had their most abiding, as is aforefayd, be not so lame or impotent, but that they may worke in some maner of worke: that then such Citie, Towne, Parish or Village, doe either in common provide some such worke for them, as they may be occupied in, or appoint them to such as will find them worke for meate and drinke. And if they refuse of wilfulnesse and stubbornesse to worke, or do runne away and beg in other places, then to punish the same according to their discretions, with stocking, beating, or otherwise as shall seeme conuenient.

VII. Be it also enacted by the authority aforefayd, That all leprouse and poore bedred creatures, whatsoever they be, may at their owne liberty remaine and continue in such houses as are appointed for leprouse 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 be lawful unto the sayd leprouse and bedred people, for their better relief to appoint their proctor or proctors, so there be not appointed aboue the number of two persons, for any one house of leprouse or bedred people, to gather the charitable almes of all such inhabitants, as shall be within the compasse of foure miles of any of the sayd houses of leprouse and bedred people.

VIII. Provided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforefayd, That it shall be lawfull to the Lord Chancellop of *England*, or Lord Keeper of the great seale for the time being, at their discretions to grant commission vnder the great seale of *England*, to every or any person or persons, that hath, or shall haue his or their houses or barnes burnt, or such losses, or to such as be or shall be leprouse persons, to gather the relief and charitie of others for their relief, or for their aid, and helpe of his or their losses, decay, or hinderance, as in time past hath been vsed, any thing in this Act notwithstanding.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authoritie aforefayd, That all and every Statute and Act of Parliament made for punishment of vacabonds, slaues, aged and impotent persons, or any of them, and every Article, sentence, clause or proviso, therein contained, other then this present Act and Statute made, and the sayd Act made in the said two and twentieth yeere, shall be from henceforth vtterly void, repealed, and of no effect or force.

X. And forasmuch as diuers men and women going on begging, impotent and lame, and some able inough to labour, doe carry children about with them of tender age, and some of four, fise or sixe yeeres of age, or yonger, or elder, which being once brought vp in idlenesse, will hardly be brought after to any good kind of labour, paine, trauell or seruice:

Be

Be it enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That if any child about the age of five yeeres, and vnder the age of fourteene, go about wandering, as is aforesayd, or else alone, in case any maner person that is able to keep any such child, will take it, be it male or female, of and from any such begger being the father or mother thereof, nourisher or keeper, whether they be willing or not, or without any such Nurse, father, mother or keeper, by him or her selfe wandring, and bring such child so taken, before one of the Constables of the Parish, where the child shall so fortune to be taken vp, and at the next generall quarter Sessions to be holden in the Shire next to the place where the sayd taking vp shall fortune to be, present the same in the presence of the sayd Constable, before the Justices of peace at the same Sessions, and there in open Sessions promise to bring the same child vp in some honest labour or occupation till the woman childe come to the age of fifteen yeeres and the man child to the age of eighteen yeeres, if the Maister or Mistresse shall chance so long to liue, that then and immediately the sayd Justices of peace by their discretion shall adiudge by vertue of this Act, the sayd child vnto the ages before specified, to be seruant or seruants to the sayd person or persons, so taking and promising, as is aforesaid, such child to be vsed and ordered, in all points according as the law and custome of the Realme is of seruants without wages, to what labour, occupation, or seruice soeuer the sayd taker vp, or Maister or Mistresse shall appoint him or her, during the sayd tearme, and the sayd iudgement shall be entered by the Clarke of the peace in the sayd Sessions in forme following:

‘ **M**EMORANDUM, That at the Sessions of the peace
 ‘ holden at W, the day, &c. One I. B. of the Towne of
 ‘ L. had deliuered to him, according to the forme of the Statute
 ‘ in that case provided B. T. esteemed to be of the age of seauen
 ‘ or eight yeeres, to be ordered according to the forme of the
 ‘ sayd Statute.’

XI. And if it shall fortune such child so adiudged to runn away at any time, once, or more times, from his, or her Maister or Mistresse, that then it shall be lawfull for euery such Maister or Mistresse, to take the sayd child againe, and to keepe and punish the sayd child in the stockes, or otherwise by discretion, or otherwise at the liberty of such Maister or Mistresse, to haue a warrant from any Justice of peace in the same Shire where the child so runns away, for such child running away, or going away, as is provided by the Statute of labourers, for such seruants as depart away from their Maister or Mistresse, without a reasonable cause before the end of their tearm.

XII. And that euery Justice of peace shall by force of this Act haue authoritie and power, to make such warrant against euery such person so going, and running away, in like forme as they or any of them may doe against any seruant departing out of his Maisters seruice without license, or reasonable cause, and

by force of the same warrant, the child so running or going away, to be taken and ordered in euery degree, as is provided by the sayd Statute of labourers for seruants departing out of their Maister or Mistresse seruice, as is aforesayd.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That if, and as often as it shall chance the father, mother, nurse, or other bearer about of the child, or any other person or persons, to steale, or intise away any such child, adiudged for a seruant, as is aforesayd, that then, and so often it shall be lawfull for the maister, or mistresse of the same child to be at his or their liberty, to take an Action vpon the Statute of labourers, against euery such person so stealing, or intising away such child as he or they might haue, by reason of the said Statute for labourers, against him, or them that retaines any mans seruant out of his seruice, before the end of the sayd tearme, or else to take an Action of Trespasse against such offender, in which Action hee shall recouer his dammages, and treble costes of his sure.

XIV. Prouided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That if the Maister, or Mistresse, to whom such child as is aforesayd shall be adiudged to be seruant, be vnreasonable in ordering, and bringing vp of such child, that then at all times vpon complaint made at the generall quarter Sessions of the peace, in the Countie where the sayd child shall be by two honest neighbours of the same place, or Towne where the said child shall fortune to be so vnreasonably ordered, if it shall appeare by honest witnessse to the Iustices of peace at the same Sessions that the complaint thereof made shall be true, then the Iustices of peace at their generall Sessions in the same Shire, where such complaint shall be made, shall by vertue of this Act haue authoritie and power to discharge the sayd child from his or their vnreasonable maister, or mistresse, and appoint the same to some other honest maister, or mistresse, vnto the sayd ages, to be ordered in euery degree as the sayd child should haue bene with his former maister or mistresse, and that order, and appointment to be written in the Booke of the Clarke of the peace, for the which entrie the said Clarke of the peace shall haue foure pence for his labour, and not aboue, and in like maner shall haue foure pence and not aboue, for the first entrie of the child to be seruant, as is aforesayd, to be payd by the maister, or mistresse of the sayd child.

XV. Prouided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That if the woman child to be appointed a seruant, as is aforesayd, be married afore her age of 15. yeeres, that then by that marriage, she shall be discharged of seruice. This act or any thing therein contained to the contrarie notwithstanding.

XVI. Prouided alwaies, and be it enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That all and euery vacabond, or begger, being borne in any other nation, or Countrie then within this Realme, shall in maner, and forme aforesayd, and vpon the forfeitures, and penalties before mentioned, bee conueyed from place to place, or to the place, or marches next adioyning, to his or their native countrie, or to the next Port, if there be a sea betweene this Realme, and his or their saide countries, there to be kept
of

of the inhabitants of the said next Port, in conuenient labour from idleness, or otherwise till they may be conueyed ouer, and then at the costs of the inhabitants of the said Port, if themselves shall not haue wherewith, to be conueyed ouer into their natiue countries.

Anno decimo tertio Reginae ELIZABETHÆ.

AT the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster*, the second day of *April*, in the thirteenth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lady *Elizabeth*, by the grace of God, of *England, France, and Ireland*, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. and there continued until the dissolution of the same, to the high pleasure of Almighty God, and the weal publick of this realm.

C A P. XVIII.

An act for bringing of the Riuer of Lee, to the Northside of the Citie of London.

FORASMUCH as it is perceiued by many graue and wise men, aswell of the Citie of London, as of the Countrey, that it were very commodious and profitable, both for the Citie and the Countrey, that the River of Lee, otherwise called *Ware River*, might be brought within the land, to the North part of the sayd Citie of London, the same to be cut out of the sayd River, in the most aptest and meetest place of the sayd Riuer of Lee, to haue from thence the leading and passage of the sayd water, thorow such a conuenient and meete cut, as may serue for the nauigation of Barges and other vessels for the carriage and conueying aswell of all Merchandises, corne, and victuals, as other necessaries, from the Towne of *Ware*, and all other places neere the said Riuer, vnto the sayd Citie of London, and from the sayd Citie, to the sayd places, and the Towne of *Ware*, and also for *Tiltboates* and *Whirries*, for conueying of the *Queenes* subiects to and fro, to their great ease and commoditie. In consideration of the premisses, and of diuers sundry commodious, profitable, and beneficiall causes, which are like to insue to the bodie of this common wealth, and so incidently to many particuler persons: Be it enacted by the *Queenes* most excellent Maiestie, with the assent of the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, and the commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authoritie of the same, That it shall be lawfull to the Lord Maior, Comminaltie, and Citizens of the Citie of London, and their successors, at any time or times hereafter, to beginne and continue the laying out of such conuenient limits of ground, for the making of the trench for the sayd Riuer, at such breadth, as to them and their deputies and workemen shall be seene conuenient and meete for the same, and in that place that they shall find to be most apt and meete for that purpose, to haue, take, and

Further im-
proved by 12
G. 2. c. 32.