

chosen and authorized, or any twelue of them, shall determine and appoint. And that such owners, their heires, and assignes, shall haue such reasonable remedie, by action of debt, or distresse, or otherwise to recouer, haue, and obtaine the said recompence, as the Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the great seale of England for the time being, together with the said sixteene Commissioners, or with any twelue of them, shall appoint: any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Anno tricesimo nono Reginae ELIZABETHÆ.

AT the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster*, the four and twentieth day of *October*, in the nine and thirtieth 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 thereof, being the ninth of *February* next following, one thousand five hundred ninety seven; to the high pleasure of Almighty God, and the weal publick of this realm.

C A P. III.

An Act for the reliefe of the poore.

BE E it enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, That the Churchwardens of euery parish, and foure substantiall householders there being Subsidie men, or for want of Subsidie men, foure other substantiall householders of the said parish, who shall be nominated yeerely in Easter weeke, vnder the hand and Seale of two or more Justices of the peace in the same County, whereof one to be of the *Quorum*, dwelling in, or neere the same parish, shall be called ouerseers of the poore of the same parish, and they or the greater part of them shall take order from time to time, by, and with the consent of two or more such Justices of peace, for setting to worke of the children of all such whose parents shall not by the said persons be thought able to keepe and mainteine their children. And also all such persons married or vnmarried, as hauing no means to mainteine them, vse no ordinary and dayly trade of life to get their liuing by, and also to raise weekly or otherwise (by taxation of euery inhabitant, and euery occupier of lands in the said parish, in such competent sum and sums of money as they shall think fit) a conuenient stocke of Flaxe, Hempe, Wooll, Threed, Iron, and other necessary ware and stufte to set the poore on worke, and also competent sums of money, for, and towards the necessary reliefe of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them being poore, and not able to work, & also for the puting out of such children to be apprentices, to be gathered
out

out of the same parish, according to the abilitie of the said parish, and to doe and execute all other things as well for the disposing of the said stocke, as otherwise concerning the premisses, as to them shall seeme conuenient: which said churchwardens and ouerseers so to bee nominated, or such of them as shall not bee let by sicknesse or other iust excuse, to bee allowed by such two Justices of peace or more, shall meete together at the least once euery moneth in the Church of the said parish, vpon the Sunday in the afternoone, after diuine Seruice, there to consider of some good course to be taken, and of some meete orders to bee set downe in the premisses, and shall within foure dayes after the end of their yeere, and after other ouerseers nominated as aforesaid, make and yeeld vp to such two Justices of peace, a true and perfect account of all sums of monie by them receiued or rated and sessed, and not receiued: and also of such stocke as shall be in their hands, or in the hands of any of the poore to worke, and of all other things concerning their said office, and such sum or sums of monie as shall be in their hands, shall pay and deliuer ouer to the said Churchwardens and ouerseers, newly nominated and appointed as aforesaid, vpon paine that euery one of them absenting themselues without lawfull cause as aforesaid, from such monethly meeting for the purpose aforesayd, or being negligent in their office, or in the execution of the orders aforesaide, beeing made by, and with the assent of the sayde Justices of Peace, to forfeit for euery such default, twentie shillings. And be it also enacted, That if the sayd Justices of Peace doe perceiue that the Inhabitaunts of anie Parish are not able to leuie among themselues sufficient summes of money for the purposes aforesayd, that then the said Justices shall, and may tax, rate, and assesse, as aforesayd, anie other of other Parishes, or out of any Parish within the hundred where the sayde Parish is, to pay such summe and summes of money to the Churchwardens and Ouerseers of the sayde poore Parish, for the sayde purposes, as the sayde Justices shall thinke fit, according to the intent of this Lawe. And if the sayde Hundred shall not bee thought to the sayd Justices, able, and fit to relieue the sayde seuerall Parishes not able to provide for themselues as aforesayde, then the Justices of Peace, at their generall Quarter Sessions, or the greater number of them, shall rate, and assesse, as aforesayde, anie other of other Parishes, or out of any Parish within the sayde Countie, for the purposes aforesayd, as in their discretion shall seeme fit.

II. And that it shall be lawfull for the sayd Churchwardens and Ouerseers, or anie of them, by warrant from anie two such Justices of Peace, to leuie as well the sayd summes of money of euery one that shall refuse to contribute according as they shall be assessed, by distresse and sale of the offendours goods, as the summes of money or stocke which shall be behind vpon any account to be made as aforesayd, rendering to the partie the overplus, and in defect of such distresse, it shall be lawfull for any such two Justices of the Peace, to commit him to
Prison,

Prison, there to remayne without bayle or maineprise, till payment of the sayd summe or stocke. And the sayd Justices of Peace or any one of them, to send to the house of Correction such, as shall not imploy, themselues to worke, beeing appoynted thereunto as afore sayd: And also any two such Justices of Peace, to commit to Prison euery one of the sayde Churchwardens and Ouerseers, which shall refuse to accompt, there to remayne without Bayle or Mayneprise, till hee haue made a true accompt, and satisfied and payed so much as upon the sayde accompt shall be remayning in his hands.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall bee lawfull for the sayd Churchwardens and Ouerseers, or the greater part of them, by the assent of anie two Justices of the Peace, to bind anie such children as afore sayd to be Apprentices, where they shall see conuenient, till such manchild shall come to the age of foure and twentie yeares, and such woman-child to the age of one and twentie yeares: The same to be as effectuell to all purposes as if such child were of full age, and by indenture of Couenant bound him or her selfe. *And to the intent, that necessarie places of habitation may more conueniently be provided for such poore impotent people.* Be it enacted by the authoritie afore sayd, That it shall and may be lawfull for the sayd Churchwardens and Ouerseers, or the greater part of them, by the leaue of the Lord or Lords of the Manor, whereof anie wast or common within their Parish is or shall be parcell, and vpon agreement before with him or them made in Writing, vnder the hands and Seales of the sayd Lord or Lords, or otherwise, according to anie order to be set downe by the Justices of Peace of the sayde county, at their generall Quarter Sessions, or the greater part of them, by like leaue and agreement, of the sayd Lord or Lords in Writing vnder his or their hands and Seales, to erect, build, and set vp in fit and conuenient places of habitation, in such waste or common, at the generall charges of the Parish, or otherwise of the hundred or Countie as afore sayde, to bee taxed, rated, and gathered, in manner before expressed, conuenient houses of dwelling for the sayd impotent poore, and also to place Inmates, or more families then one in one cottage or house: One Act made in the one and thirtieth yeare of her Maiesties raigne, intituled, An Act against the erecting and maintaining of cottages, or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

IV. *Provided alwayes,* That if any person or persons shall find themselues griued with any Sesse or Taxe, or other Act done by the sayd Churchwardens, and other persons, or by the sayd Justices of Peace, that then it shall bee lawfull for the Justices of Peace at their generall quarter Sessions, or the greater number of them, to take such order therein as to them shall be thought conuenient, and the same to conclude and bind all the said parties.

V. And be it further enacted, That the parents or children of euerie poore, olde, blinde, lame, and impotent person or other

other poore person, not able to worke, being of sufficient abilitie, shall at their owne charges, relieue and maintaine euery such poore person in that manner, and according to that rate, as by the Justices of Peace of that Countie where such sufficient persons dwell, or the greater number of them, at their generall quarter Sessions shall be assessed, vpon payne that euery one of them to forfeit xx. s. for euery moneth, which they shall faile therein.

VI. And be it further hereby enacted, That the Maiors, Bailiffes, or other head Officers of euery corporate Towne within this Realme being Justice or Justices of Peace, shall haue the same authoritie by vertue of this Act, within the limits and precincts of their corporations, aswel out of Sessions, as at their Sessions, as is herein limited, prescribed and appointed to any of the Justices of Peace of the Countie, for all the vses and purposes in this Acte prescribed, and no other Justices of Peace to enter or meddle there.

VII. And be it also enacted, That if it shall happen any Parish to extend it selfe into moe Counties then one, or part to lye within the liberties of any Citie or Towne corporate, and part without, that then, aswell the Justices of Peace of euery Countie, as also the head officers of such citie or towne corporate, shall deale and intermeddle only in so much of the said parish as lieth within their libertie, and not any further.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That from the first day of Nouember next ensuing the end of this Session of parliament, no person or persons whatsoever shall goe wandring abroad, and begge in any place wheresoeuer, by licence or without, vpon paine to be esteemed, taken, and punished as a Rogue.

IX. *Provided alwaies*, That this present Act shall not extend to anie poore people, which shall ask reliefe of victualls onely in the same parish where such poore people doe dwell, so the same be in such time onely, and according to such order and direction, as shall be made and appointed by the Churchwardens and Ouerseers of the poore of the same Parish, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act.

X. And further be it enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, that all penalties and forfeitures before mentioned in this Act, shall goe and be employed to the vse of the poore of the same Parish, and towards a stocke and habitation for them, and other necessarie vses and reliefe, as before in this Act are mentioned and expressed, and shall be leuied by the sayde Churchwardens and Ouerseers, or one of them, by warrant from anie two such Justices of Peace by distresse & sale, as aforesayd, or in defect thereof, it shal be lawful for anie two such Justices of Peace to commit the offender to prison, there to remayne without bayle or mayneprise, till the said forfeitures shall be satisfied and payed: *And forasmuch as all begging is forbidden by this present Act,*

XI. Bee

XI. Bee it further enacted by the authoritie aforesayd, That the Justices of Peace of euery Countie or place corporate, or the more part of them in their generall Sessions to be holden, next after the end of this Session of Parliament, or in default thereof, at the Quarter Sessions to be holden, about the Feast of Easter next, shall rate euery Parish to such a weekly summe of money as they shall think conuenient, so as no Parish be rated about the summe of sixe pence, nor vnder the summe of an halfe-pennie, weekly to bee payed, and so as the totall summe of such taxation of the Parishes in euerie Countie, amount not about the rate of two pence for euerie Parish in the sayde Countie, which summes so taxed, shall bee yearly assessed by the agreement of the Parishioners within themselues, or in default thereof by the Churchwardens and Constables of the same Parish, or the more part of them, or in default of their agreement, by the order of such Justice or Justices of Peace as shall dwell in the same Parish, or (if none be there dwelling) in the parts next adioyning: And if any person shall refuse, or neglect to pay any such portion of money so taxed, it shall be lawfull for the sayd Churchwardens and Constables, or in their default for the Justices of the Peace, to leuie the same by distresse, and sale of the goods of the partie so refusing or neglecting, rendering to the partie the overplus, and in default of such distresse, it shall be lawfull to any Justice of that limit, to commit such persons to prison, there to abide without bayle or mayneprise till he haue payed the same.

XII. And bee it also enacted, that the sayd Justices of the Peace, at their generall Quarter Sessions to bee holden at the time of such taxation, shall set downe what competent summe of money shall be sent quarterly out of euery countie or place corporate, for the reliefe of the poore Prisoners of the Kings Bench, and Marshalsey, and also of such Hospitalls, and Almes-houses, as shall be in the sayd Countie; and what summes of money shall be sent to euery one of the sayde Hospitalls, and Almes-houses, so as there be sent out of euery Countie yearly twentie shillings at the least, to the sayde Prisoners of the Kings Bench, and Marshalsey, which summes ratable to bee assessed vpon euerie Parish, the Chutchwardens of euerie Parish shall truely collect and pay ouer to the High-Constable, in whose Diuision such Parish shall bee scituate from time to time quarterly, tenne dayes before the end of euerie Quarter: And euerie such Constable at euerie such Quarter Sessions in such Countie, shall pay ouer the same to two such Justioes of the Peace, or to one of them, as shall bee by the more part of the Justices of Peace of the Countie, elected to bee Treasurers of the sayde Collection, which Treasurers in euerie Countie so chofen, shall continue but for the space of one whole yeare, and then give vp their charge with a due account of their receipts and disbursements at their meeting in the Quarter Sessions, to bee holden after the Feast of Easter in euerie yeare, to such others as shall from yeare to yeare in fourme aforesayde, successiuelly bee elec-

ted, which sayde Treasurers, or one of them, shall pay, ouer the same to the Lord chiefe Justice of England, and Knight Marshall for the time being, equally to bee diuided to the vse aforesayd, taking their acquittances for the same, or in default of the sayde chiefe Justice, to the next auncient Justice of the Kings Bench, as aforesayde. And if anie Churchwarden, or High-Constable, or his Executours, or Administratours, shall fayle to make payment in forme aboue specified, then euerie Churchwarden, his Executours, or Administratours so offending, shall forfeite for euerie time, the summe of tenne shillings, and euerie High-Constable, his Executours or Administratours, shall forfeit for euerie time the summe of twentie shillings, the same forfeitures together with the summes behind, to be leuied by the sayde Treasurer and Treasurers by way of distresse, and sale of the goods as aforesayd, in forme aforesayd, and by them to be employed, towards the charitable vses comprised in this Act.

XIII. And bee it further enacted, That all the surplussage of money which shall be remayning in the said stocke of any countie, shall by discretion of the more part of the Justices of Peace in their Quarter Sessions, be ordered, distributed and bestowed for the reliefe of the poore Hospitalls of that Countie, and of those that shall sustayne losses by fire, water, the Sea, or other casualties, and to such other charitable purposes, for the reliefe of the poore, as to the more part of the sayd Justices of Peace shall seeme conuenient.

XIV. And bee it further enacted, That if any Treasurer shall wilfully refuse to take vpon him the said office of Treasurership, or refuse to distribute and giue reliefe according to such forms shall be appointed by the more part of the sayde Justices of Peace, that then it shall be lawfull for the Justices of Peace in their quarter Sessions, or in their default for the Justices of Assize, at the Assizes to be holden in the same countie, to fine the same Treasurer by their discretion: the same fine to be leuied by sale of his goods, and to be prosecuted by anie two of the sayd Justices of Peace whom they shall authorise.

XV. *Provided alwayes neuerthelesse*, That euerie Souldier being discharged of his seruice, or otherwise lawfully licensed to passe into his Countie, and not hauing wherewith to relieue himselfe in his trauels homewards, and euerie Sea-faring man landing from Sea, not hauing wherewith to relieue himselfe in his trauels homewards, hauing a testimoniall vnder the hand of some one Justice of the Peace, of, or neere the place where he landed or was discharged, setting downe therein the place and time, where, and when he landed, or was discharged, and the place of the parties dwelling or birth, vnto which he is to passe, and a conuenient time therein to be limited for his passage, shall and may without incurring the danger or penaltie of this Acte in the vsuall wayes, directly to the place vnto which hee is directed to passe, and within the time in such his testimoniall limited for his passage, aske, and receiue such reliefe as shall

bee necessarie, in, and for his passage: This Act or any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

XVI. *Provided alwayes, That this Act shall endure and continue then to the ende of the next Session of Parliament.*

G A P . I V .

An Act for punishment of Rogues, Vagabonds, and sturdie Beggers.

FOR the suppressing of Rogues, Vagabonds, and sturdie Beggers: Bee it enacted by the authoritie of this present Parliament, that from and after the Feast of *Easter* next comming, all Statutes heretofore made for the punishment of Rogues, Vagabonds, or sturdie Beggers, or for the erection or maintenance of houses of Correction, or touching the same, shall for so much as concerneth the same be viterly repealed: And that from and after the said Feast of *Easter*, from time to time it shall and may be lawfull to and for the Iustices of Peace of anie Countie or Citie in this Realme, or the Dominions of *Wales*, assembled at any quarter Sessions of the Peace within the same Countie, Citie, Borough, or Towne corporate, or the more part of them, to set downe order to erect, and to cause to be erected one or more houses of Correction within their severall Counties or Cities: for the doing and performing whereof, and for the providing of stockes of money, and all other things necessary for the same, and for raising and governing of the same, and for correction and punishment of offenders thither to be committed, such orders as the same Iustices or the more part of them shall from time to time take, reforme, or set downe in any their said quarter Sessions in that behalfe shall be of force, and be duly performed and put in execution.

And be it also further enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That all persons calling themselves Schollers going about begging, all Sea-faring-men pretending losses of their shippes or goods on the Sea going about the countie begging, All idle persons going about in anie countie either begging or vsing any subtilie craft, or vnlawfull games and playes, or sayning themselves to haue knowledge in Physiognomie, Palmestrie, or other like craftie science, or pretending that they can tell destenies, fortunes, or such other like fantasticall imaginations: All persons that bee, or wter themselves to be Proctors, Procurers, Patent gatherers, or Collectors for Gaoles, Prisons, or Hospitals: All Fencers, Berewards, common Players of Enterludes, and Minstrells, wandering abroad (other then Players of Enterludes belonging to anie Baron of this Realme, or anie other honourable personage of greater degree, to bee authorized to play vnder the hand and Seale of Armes of such Baron or personage) All Iuglers, Tinkers, Pedlers, and pettie Chapmen wandering abroad, All wandering persons and common Labourers, being persons able in body, vsing loytering, and refusing to worke for such reasonable wages, as is taxed or commonly giuen in such