

C H A P.  
LVII.

and may be lawful for any one justice of the peace for the said county, and for any person authorized and appointed by such justice, to apprehend or cause to be apprehended and committed to the said work-house, any rogues, vagrants, vagabonds, beggars, and other idle, dissolute and disorderly persons, found loitering or residing in the said county, who follow no labour, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence whereby to acquire an honest livelihood, there to be kept at hard labour for any time not exceeding three months; and the overseer of such alms and work-house, shall be obliged to receive any poor appointed as aforesaid to be received, and any rogue, vagrant, vagabond, beggar, and other idle, dissolute, and disorderly person, so as aforesaid committed.

Poor, &c. to  
wear a badge,  
&c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That every person who shall be received into the said alms or work-house, and there receive relief, shall upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the uppermost garment of every such person, in an open and visible manner, wear the following badge, to wit, the letters P. D. for the poor of Dorchester, and the letters P. S. for the poor of Somerset, cut in red or blue cloth, as by the overseer of the poor shall be directed and appointed, and if such poor person shall neglect or refuse to wear such mark or badge as aforesaid, and in manner as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any one of the trustees aforesaid, to punish every such offender for every such offence, either by ordering his or her usual allowance to be abridged, suspended or withdrawn, or otherwise, by ordering such offender to be whipt not exceeding ten lashes, and kept to hard labour for any number of days not exceeding twenty, as to the said trustee shall seem meet, and if any overseer of the poor shall receive into the said alms and work-house, or shall support any such person not having and wearing such badge or mark as aforesaid, and be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds current money.

Penalty on  
keeping  
booth, &c.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That whosoever shall presume, either to set up a booth, stall or other convenience for the selling of strong liquors, on the land purchased for the use of the said alms and work-house, or shall commit any kind of trespass thereon, or shall sell or dispose of any strong liquor, or other matter or thing whatsoever to, or purchase any matter or thing whatsoever from any poor or other person entertained in the said alms and work-house, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds current money.

Sheriffs, &c.  
to aid trustees,  
&c.

XIX. And be it enacted, That all sheriffs, constables, and all other officers and ministers of justice, shall be aiding and assisting to the said trustees for the poor in the said counties, and to all such officers as shall be employed by them, as by this act is directed, in the execution and performance of the said service.

Persons sued  
may plead the  
general issue,  
&c.

XX. And be it enacted, That if any person or persons shall at any time or times be sued or prosecuted for any matter or thing by him or them done and executed, in pursuance and execution of this act, or of any matter or thing in this act contained, such person or persons shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence for his or their defence, and if upon trial a verdict shall pass for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his or their suit, then such defendant or defendants shall have and recover treble costs to him or them awarded against such plaintiff or plaintiffs, and if the plaintiff or plaintiffs is or are unable to satisfy the same, then it shall be paid and satisfied by the attorney who brought such suit, unless the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall give security for the costs to be approved by the court in which such suit is brought.

XXI. And,