

shall yearly, within one Month after *Easter*, under their Hands and Seals, appoint in every Parish four, three, or two substantial Housholders, as shall be Overseers of the Poor within the same Parish. 21 Jac. cap. 28.

The Justices of Peace, which have the appointing of these Overseers, must therein be careful to chuse such Men as in every Town are fittest, *sc.* Substantial persons, having competency of Wealth, Wisdom, and a good Conscience. And it seems also, they must be Housholders, not Sojourners, 'however otherwise qualified. And indeed, this name and office of Overseers, may besem the best, and not the meanest Men (it being a name and office of great antiquity and excellency, as you may see 1 Chro. 23. 4. Acts 20. 28. and Acts 6. 3, 5.) And though the persons are not dignified according to the singularity of the Subject; yet this is not the least office to be called Overseers of the Poor: For as God himself hath a special respect to the miseries of the Poor; so they be like God, which provide for the necessities of the Poor.

All poor, needy, impotent, and lame persons, within every Township and Village in the Counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, the Bishoprick of Durham, Cumberland, and Westmerland, and other Counties where by reason of the largeness of the Parishes, they cannot reap the benefit of the Statute of 43 Eliz. shall be maintained and set on work in the respective Township or Village wherein they were inhabiting or settled; and that according to the Rules of 43 Eliz. shall be yearly in every Township and Village chosen two or more Overseers, who shall do and forfeit as in the Act of 43 Eliz. is appointed. 14 Car. 2. c. 12. S. 3.
Large P.
rishes.

The Justices of the Peace of the said Counties, shall do and execute such authority in those Villages and Townships, as is directed by 49 Eliz. 14 Car. 2. c. 12.

It seemeth that this Act extendeth not only to the Counties therein named, but also to other Counties where such great and large Parishes are.

These Overseers and Churchwardens (or the greater part of them) with the consent of two or more such Justices, shall take order from time to time for setting their Poor on work, putting out Apprentices, and relieving their impotent, as followeth. S. 4.
The Over-
seers duty.

1. First, For setting to work the Children of all such, whose Parents shall not by the greater part of the Overseers be thought able to keep and maintain their Children, which Children they, or the greater part of them, by the assent of two Justices, may also put out to be Apprentices, *scil.* The Men Children till their age of 24, and the Women Children till their age of 21 years, or the time of their Marriage. Apprenti-
ces.

And all poor Children of the age of 7 years, or above, so bound Apprentices, may be taken and kept as Apprentices by their Masters, any former Statute to the contrary notwithstanding. See 1 Jac. c. 25. and 21 Jac. 28. and 3 Car. 4. but such binding must be by Indenture. See *Ant. tit. Labor. Crom. 184 b.* And see the form of such an Indenture, *hic postea.*

Note, that the putting of poor Children Apprentice, is holden to be one of the best ways of providing for the Poor, Resol. 1.

And one Justice of the Peace may compel any person meet, to be bound as an Apprentice.

2. For setting to work all such persons (married or unmarried) as having no means to maintain them, use no ordinary and daily Trade of life to get their living by. S. 5.
Work.

Such also as can get no work, are by the Overseers to be set on work; and any one Justice of Peace may send to the House of Correction, or Com-