

But such Persons as after Conviction shall take such Oaths (for refusing whereof they stand convicted) and give security to forbear meeting in any such unlawful Assembly, shall be discharged of all the said Penalties.

And Peers or Lords of Parliament to be tried for every such third offence by their Peers.

C H A P. LXXXI. V. 45.

Recusants.

This word *Recusant* is now become of that import and known signification, to describe and design a person by, that on the account of adherence to the Church and Court of *Rome*, in her pretended and falsely claimed Supremacy over all other Churches in Spiritual Matters (under which Head she also would comprehend all Temporal Affairs, as well of the highest as lowest rank; for these may be serviceable in some way or other to her ends, at least by Construction) doth deny to Temporal Princes, claiming under God Imperial Thrones, and justly possessing them, and to the King of *England* in particular; that Supremacy that they all lawfully may, and do some of them actually claim, as their great charge and duty; and which by the Statute of 26 *H. 8. c. 1.* is justly united to the Imperial Crown of this Kingdom.

For the Exactions of that Church and Court proving intolerable, and their ends and designs proving dangerous to Temporal Government, the same magnanimous King assisted with his Parliament, did effect that which other Princes, even in Popish times, and in Popish Countries sought to redress. Who although they cut off some Boughs and Branches, yet leaving the Root untouched, the Tree grew even to a monstrous height and breadth. This wise Prince laid the Ax to the Root by the Statute of 26 *H. 8. c. 1.* having by the Statute of 24 *H. 8. c. 12.* discharged all Appeals to *Rome*, and put the causes in a right Channel, to receive a just and righteous decision. And by the Statutes of 25 *H. 8. c. 20.* & 26 *H. 8. c. 3.* prevented the Court of *Rome* from receiving First-Fruits for Ecclesiastical Livings and taken care for a Succession of Archbishops and Bishops: And also by the Statute of 25 *H. 8. c. 21.* taken off the payment of all Impositions to *Rome*, the Clergy having in Convocation recognized that King to be Supreme Head of the Church, and taking care for the due management of this asserted Jurisdiction.

Thus stood the Kings Supremacy all the residue of the Reign of *Henry* the Eighth, and *Edward* the Sixth his time, and *Queen Mary* although an intire Papist, yet kept *Supremum caput* in her style, and thereby summoned her first Parliament; and soon after omitted it, and the Statutes made in her Fathers time for asserting the Kings Supremacy were repealed. But her Authority being short, 1 *Eliz. c. 1.* those Statutes of Repeal were repealed, and consequently the Statutes by *Queen Mary* repealed, were revived. By which, as that Statute recites, all usurped and foreign Jurisdiction was put away; and the ancient Jurisdictions, Superiorities and Preheminences of Right belonging to the Imperial Crown of this Realm thereto united, by reason whereof the Subjects were kept in good order, and disburdened of great and intollerable Exactions. And by that Statute of 1 *Eliz. c. 1.* an Oath was directed for good Subjects to take; the Form you may see *Cap. 4 §. 5.* and a Law made the same year, *cap. 2.* for establishing a Common-Prayer Book in *English*, and Uniformity in Divine Service, and requiring all persons to come to Church and hear the same, under divers Penalties.

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