

time, (at their discretions) of any Woollen Cloth, to be made or sold in any Town not being Corporate, and may charge them upon their Oaths, and bind them in Recognizance of Forty pound apiece, to do their best in-deavour by all lawful ways and means, for their time, to see the Statutes of 3 Ed. 6. c. 2. and of 39 Eliz. c. 20. in all points truly observed and kept within their limits, (*sc.* within the Town or Parish where the said Overseers shall be dwelling) The particulars seem to be these.

§. 3.
Every of Overseers.

1. That the Weights, Lengths, and Breadths, of all Woollen Cloths, be according to the Statute 39 *El.* See the Statutes 4 *Jac.* c. 2. & 21 *Jac.* c. 18. ^{P. Dra. 114}

2. That every such Cloth have a Seal of Lead, containing the just length and weight. 39 *Eliz.*

3. That such be not stretched or strained. *Ibid.*

4. Where there be any Tenters, Wrinches, or other such Engine for the stretching of Cloth. *Ibid.* ^{21 Jac. 18.}

5. That no Iron Cards or Pickards, be occupied in any Woollen Cloths. 3 *Ed.* 6. c. 2.

6. That Cloths or Wools be not falsly Died or Coloured. *Ibid.*

7. That no Hair, Flocks, Thrums, Yarn made of Lambs-wool, Chalk, Flower, or Starch, or other deceivable thing, be put in or upon any Woollen Cloth, upon pain to forfeit for every Offence Five pound, to the use of the Poor of the Parish where such Cloth is made. See 3 *Ed.* 6. & 43 *Eliz.* c. 10. & 4 *Jac.* c. 2. & 21 *Jac.* c. 18.

8. That no Cloths be in any deceivable manner pressed, to be put to Sale; 3 *Ed.* 6. See also of the Statutes of 5 *Ed.* 6. c. 6. & 21 *Jac.* c. 18.

The Statute of 5 Edw. 6. speaks of Hot-presses, which is a deceitful way of Pressing of Cloths, and is much to its damage, and makes them seem fair to the Eye, when they are full of faults, and are dangerous also for fire. As was attested by Cloth-workers in the Kings-Bench. 13 Jac. Rolls, Rep. 2 part. p. 312.

§. 4.
Conviction.

Any two (or more) Justices of Peace within the County, City, Borough, or Town-Corporate, where deceivable Cloth shall be made, or suspected to be made, (upon Complaint or Information of any Overseer, Searcher, or any other, of any such Offence) may grant their Warrant to call before them any person or persons that in their discretion shall be thought fit to discover any such Offence, and may examine upon Oath any such persons for the trial and better finding out of the said Offence. And if upon such Examination it shall be found by Testimony of two Witnesses (or more) or by the Confession of the Offender, that any such offence hath been committed, the same shall be a sufficient Conviction of the offence; and then the said Justices shall or may certifie such offence unto the Church-wardens and Overseers (for the time being) of the Poor of the Parish where such deceivable Cloth shall be made, under the Hands and Seals of the said Justices; And upon such Certificate, and a Warrant made by the said Justices to the said Overseers and Church-wardens for the levying of the Forfeiture, the said Overseers and Church-wardens, or any of them, or their, or any of their Successors, immediately from and after such Certificate and Warrant delivered to them, or any of them, may levy the sum or sums of Mony, which by the said Certificate and Warrant shall appear to be forfeited, by way of Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods, rendering to the Offender the overplus, &c. and in defect of such Distress, the said two Justices may commit the Offender to the Common Gaol, there to remain without Bail, until payment shall be made of the sums so forfeited, to the said Overseers and Church-wardens, or some, or one of them, &c. 21 *Jac.* c. 18. ^{21 Jac. 18.}

These