

C H A P. XLVI. V. 23.
Games.

^{1 Carol. 1.} **T**here shall be no meeting of people out of their own Parishes on the ^{§. 1.} Lords day (or Sunday) for any Sport or Pastimes whatsoever; nor any Bear-baiting, Bul-baiting, Enterludes, common Plays, or other unlawful Exercises or Pastimes, used by any within their own Parishes: upon pain that every person offending in any the premisses do forfeit for every Offence Three shillings four pence, to be employed to the use of the Poor of the same Parish where the Offence shall be committed. And any one Justice of Peace of the County (or the chief Officer of any City, Borough, or Town Corporate) upon his or their view, or Confession of the party, or proof of any one Witness by Oath, shall give Warrant under his Hand and Seal to the Constables or Church wardens of the Parish where the Offence shall be committed, to levy the said Penalty by Distress, and Sale of the Offenders goods, (rendering them the Overplus:) and in default of Distress, the Offenders to be set in the Stocks by the space of Three hours: Provided that none be impeached by this Act, except he be called in question within one month next after the said Offence committed, ^{1 Caroli Regis, cap. 1. & 3 Caroli. cap. 4.}

King James of happy memory Anno Domini 1618. publickly declared to his Subjects, these Recreations or Exercises hereunder mentioned to be lawful; that is to say, Dancing of Men or Women, Archery, Leaping, Vaulting, May-games, Whitson Ales, Moris-Dances, and setting up May-poles, and other sports therewith used: And commanded that no such honest Mirth or Recreation should be forbidden to his Subjects upon the Sunday or Holy-days, after Divine Service (sc. Evening Prayer) ended. Restraining and barring notwithstanding from this liberty any Recusants, and all such as absent themselves from Church upon those days; Commanding each Parish by it self to use these Recreations, and only after Evening Prayer ended: And prohibiting all unlawful Games to be used upon Sunday, Bear-baiting, Bull baiting, Enterludes, and Bowling by the meaner sort.

All which our late gracious Sovereign King Charles the First, by publick Declaration, Anno Domini 1633. hath confirmed; allowing farther the Feasts of the Dedication of Churches, commonly called Wakes, and all manlike exercises to be there used with all freedom, yet so as none bring any Weapons thither: Commanding all Justices of Peace to look that no disorder be at such Wakes, but to be prevented or punished, &c.

The Statute of 12 R. 2. c. 6. Directs Servants and Labourers in Husbandry, Artificers and Victuallers to use shooting upon Sundays and Holy-days, and prohibits them to play at Tennis, Foot-bal, Coits, Dice, and other Games; and the Statute of 11 H. 4. c. 4. confirms it with the penalty of Imprisonment Six days upon the Offender; and thereby it is Enacted, that no Apprentice or Servant shall play at Tables, unless it be for meat or drink, nor at Tennis, Dice, Cards, Bowls, or any other unlawful Game out of Christmas, and in Christmas, to play only in their Masters Houses or presence, upon pain of Imprisonment in the Stocks for a day, and the Householder that suffers these Games to be used in other manner upon conviction before the Justice of Peace, &c. forfeited 6 s. 8 d. But the Statute of 12 R. 2. c. 6. is repealed by 21 Jac. c. 28. and by the