

STATUTES

Made at WESTMINSTER, Anno 23 HEN. VI. and A. D. 1444.

CAP. X.

No Sheriff shall let to ferm his County or any Bailiwick. The Sheriff's and Bailiff's Fees and Duties in several cases.

Item, The King, considering the great Perjury, Extortion, and Oppression which be and have been in this Realm by his Sheriffs, Under-Sheriffs, and their Clerks, Coroners, Stewards of Franchises, Bailiffs, and Keepers of Prisons, and other Officers in divers Counties of this Realm, hath ordained, by Authority aforesaid, in eschewing of all such Extortion, Perjury, and Oppression, that no Sheriff shall let to ferm, in any manner, his County, nor any of his Bailiwicks, Hundreds, nor Wapentakes; (2) nor that the said Sheriff, Under-Sheriffs, Bailiffs of Franchises, nor any other Bailiff, shall return, upon any Writ or Precept to them directed to be returned, any Inquests in any Panel thereupon to be made, any Bailiffs, Officers, **249** *or Servants to any of the Officers aforesaid, in any Panel by them so to be made; (3) nor that any of the said Officers and Ministers, by occasion, or under colour of their Office, shall take any other thing by them, nor by any other Person to their Use, Profit, or Avail, of any Person by them, or any of them, to be arrested or attached, nor of none other of them, for the omitting of any Arrest or Attachment to be made by their Body, or of any Person by them or any of them, by force or colour of their Office, arrested or attached for Fine, Fee, Suit of Prison, Mainprise, letting to Bail, or shewing any Ease or Favour to any such Person so arrested, or to be arrested, for their Reward or Profit, but such as follow.

[The part enumerating the fees is not in force.]

(5) And that the said Sheriffs, and all other Officers and Ministers aforesaid, shall let out of Prison all manner of Persons by them or any of them arrested, or being in their Custody by force of any Writ, Bill, or Warrant in an Action Personal, or by cause of Indictment by Trespass, upon reason-