

STATUTES

Made at WESTMINSTER, Anno 5 HEN. VIII. and A. D. 1513.

CAP. VI.

An Act concerning Surgeons to be discharged of Quests and other things.

Sheweth unto your discreet Wisdoms, your humble Orators the Wardens and Fellowship of the Craft and Mystery of Surgeons enfranchised in the City of *London*, not passing in number twelve Persons, that whereas they and their Predecessors, from the time that no Mind is to the contrary, as well in this noble City of *London*, as in all other Cities and Boroughs within this Realm, or elsewhere, for the continual Service and Attendance that they daily and nightly at all hours and times give to the King's liege People, for the relief of the same, according to their Science, have been exempt and discharged from all Offices and Business, wherein they should use or bear any manner of Armour or Weapon, and with like Privilege have been intreated as Heralds of Arms, as well in Battles and Fields, as other Places, there for to stand unharnessed and unweaponed, according to the Law of Arms, because they be Persons that never used Feats of War, nor ought to use, but only the Business and Exercise of their Science, to the Help and Comfort of the King's liege People in the time of their need: (2) And in the aforesaid City of *London*, from the time of their first Incorporation, when they have been many mo in number than they be now, were never called nor charged to be on Quest, Watch, nor other Office, whereby they should use or occupy any Armour, or defenceable Geer of War, where through they should be unready, *and letted to practice their cure 277 of Men being in Peril: (3) Therefore for that there be so small Number of the said Fellowship of the Craft and Mystery of Surgeons, in regard of the great Multitude of Patients that be, and daily chance, and infortune happeneth and increaseth in the foresaid City of *London*, and that many of the King's liege People suddenly wounded and hurt, for Default of Help in time to them to be shewed, perish, and so divers have done, as evidently is known, by occasion that your said Suppliants