

aging of sundry idle, loose and disorderly Persons in their dishonest, \*lewd, and dissolute Course of Life, and to the circumventing, deceiving, cousening and debauching of many of the younger Sort, both of the Nobility and Gentry, and others, to the Loss of their precious Time, and the utter Ruin of their Estates and Fortunes, and withdrawing them from noble and laudable Employments and Exercises:

II. Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons of any Degree or Quality whatsoever, at any Time or Times after the nine and twentieth Day of *September*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred sixty and four, do, or shall by any Fraud, Shift, Cousenage, Circumvention, Deceit, or unlawful Device, or ill Practice whatsoever, in playing at or with Cards, Dice, Tables, Tennis, Bowls, Kittles, Shovel-board; or in or by Cock-fightings, Horse-races, Dog-matches, or Foot-races, or other Pastimes, Game or Games whatsoever, or in, or by bearing a Share, or Part of the Stakes, Wagers, or Adventures, or in, or by betting on the Sides or Hands of such as do, or shall play, act, ride or run, as aforesaid, win, obtain, or acquire to him or themselves, or to any other or others, any Sum or Sums of Money, or other valuable Thing or Things whatsoever, That then every Person and Persons so offending, as aforesaid, shall *ipso facto* forfeit and lose treble the Sum or Value of Money, or other Thing or Things so won, gained, obtained or acquired; the one Moiety thereof to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors; and the other Moiety thereof unto the Person or Persons grieved, or who shall lose the Money, or other Thing or Things so gained; so as every such Loser and Person grieved in that Behalf, do, or shall prosecute and sue for the same within six Kalendar Months next after such Play: (3) And in Default of such Prosecution, the same other Moiety to such Person or Persons as shall or will prosecute or sue for the same within one Year next after the said six Months expired: (4) And that the said Forfeiture shall or may be sued for, or recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, in any of his Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoin, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed: (5) And that