

C H A P.

XVI.

Overseer to
keep a fair
list of all
poor, &c.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the said overseer shall keep a fair and regular list of all poor, and of all beggars, vagrants, vagabonds and offenders, who shall be committed to his said alms and work-house, and also fair and regular accounts in writing of all materials and other things coming to his hands as overseer aforesaid, and of all expences and charges attending their maintenance and support, and of all monies received by him for the sale of the produce of their labour, and otherwise, as overseer aforesaid, and shall lay the said lists and accounts before the trustees of his county, or the major part of them, at their meetings at the times by this act directed, or oftener, if by them required.

And may
compel them
to work, &c.

XIV. And be it enacted, That the said overseer may compel and oblige any of the said poor, beggars, vagrants and vagabonds, or offenders, in his alms and work-house, if of a sufficient ability, to work and labour, and the produce of their labour he is hereby directed and empowered to sell, and apply the money arising from such sale to their maintenance and support.

Disorderly
persons may
be commit-
ted, &c.

XV. And be it enacted, That upon complaint made, that any person, from his or her disorderly conduct, gives disturbance to his or their neighbourhood, and is likely to become chargeable to the said county respectively, it shall and may be lawful for any one magistrate of the said county, if upon hearing the party he shall judge the complaint to be well founded, to commit such disorderly person, residing within the said county respectively, to the said work-house, for any time not exceeding three months, unless he or she shall find security, at the discretion of the magistrate aforesaid, in any sum not exceeding ten pounds current money, for his or her good behaviour during the space of six months; and also upon complaint and due proof made by the overseer of the said alms and work-house, to any one trustee, that any person in the work-house hath behaved and demeaned him or herself in a disorderly manner, or hath refused or neglected to do and perform his or her daily labour and task, or hath refused or neglected to obey, keep and observe, any of the ordinances, rules and bye-laws, of the said corporation, to order and direct such moderate and proper correction, not exceeding fifteen lashes for any one offence, to be given to such offender, as the nature of the case may require.

Trustees to
direct what
poor shall be
received, &c.

XVI. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any of the said trustees to direct and appoint, under their hand in writing, what poor shall be received into the alms and work-house of their county; and it shall and may be lawful for any one justice of the peace for the said counties, and for any person authorized and appointed by such justice, to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended and committed to the said work-house, any vagrants, vagabonds, beggars, and other idle, dissolute, and disorderly persons, found loitering or residing in their said county, who follow no labour, trade, occupation or business, and have no visible means of subsistence whereby to acquire an honest livelihood, there to be kept at hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, and the overseer of such alms and work-house shall be obliged to receive any poor appointed as aforesaid to be received, and any vagrant, vagabond, beggar, and other idle, dissolute, and disorderly person, so as aforesaid committed.

Poor, &c. to
wear a badge,
&c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That every person who shall be received into the said alms or work-houses, and there receive relief, shall, upon the shoulder of the right sleeve of the uppermost garment of every such person, in an open and visible manner, wear the following badge, to wit, the letters P. M. or P. H. as the case may be, cut in red or blue cloth, as by the overseer of the poor shall be directed and appointed; and if such poor person shall neglect or refuse to wear such mark or badge as aforesaid, and in manner as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for any one of the trustees of such county to punish every such offender for every such offence, either by ordering his or her usual allowance to be abridged, suspended or withdrawn, or otherwise by ordering such offender to be whipped, not exceeding fifteen lashes, and kept to hard labour for any number of days not exceeding twenty, as to the said trustee shall seem meet; and if any overseer of the poor shall receive into his said alms and work-house, or shall support,