

C H A P.
XV.

at hard labour, for any time not exceeding three months; and the overseer of such alms and work-house is hereby required to receive into the said alms and work-house any poor appointed as aforesaid to be received, and any vagrant, vagabond, beggar, and other idle, dissolute, and disorderly person, so as aforesaid committed.

Persons re-
ceived to
wear a badge,
&c.

XVIII. **And be it enacted,** That every person who shall be received into the said alms or work-house, and there receive relief, shall, upon 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. Q. A. cut in red or blue cloth, as by the overseer of the work-house shall be directed and appointed; and if such 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 said trustees 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every such offender, for every such offence, either by ordering his or her usual allowance to be abridged, suspended or withdrawn, or otherwise by ordering such offender to be whipped not exceeding fifteen lashes, and kept to hard labour for any number of days not exceeding twenty, as to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 trustees shall seem meet; and if any overseer of the work-house shall receive any vagrant, vagabond, or other idle, dissolute, or disorderly person, into his said work-house, or shall support any such person, not having and wearing such badge or mark as aforesaid, and be thereof convicted upon the oath of one or more credible witnesses or witnesses, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds current money.

Penalty on
keeping
booth, &c.

XIX. **And be it enacted,** That whosoever shall presume either to set up a booth, stall, or other convenience for the selling of strong liquors, on the land belonging to the said alms and work-house, or shall commit any kind of trespass thereon, or shall sell or dispose of any strong liquor, or other matter or thing whatsoever to, or purchase any matter or thing whatsoever from, any poor, or other person entertained in the said alms and work-house, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds current money.

Sheriffs, &c.
to aid trustees,
&c.

XX. **And be it enacted,** That all sheriffs, constables, and all other officers and ministers of justice, shall be aiding and assisting to the said trustees for the poor in the said county, and to all such officers as shall be employed by them, as by this act is directed, in the execution and performance of the said service.

Persons sued
may plead,
&c.

XXI. **And be it enacted,** That if any person or persons shall, at any time or times, be sued or prosecuted for any matter or thing by him or them done and executed in pursuance and execution of this act, or of any matter or thing in this act contained, such person or persons shall and may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, for his or their defence; and if upon trial a verdict shall pass for the defendant or defendants, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or discontinue his or their suit, then such defendant or defendants shall have and recover treble costs to him or them awarded against such plaintiff or plaintiffs, and if the plaintiff or plaintiffs is or are unable to satisfy the same, then it shall be paid and satisfied by the attorney who brought such suit, unless the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall give security for the costs, to be approved by the court in which such suit is brought.

Three trus-
tees to be cho-
sen annually,
&c.

XXII. **And,** to prevent individuals from being unreasonably burthened with the execution of this act, as trustees for the poor, **Be it enacted,** That at the time of the meeting of the said trustees for the poor in the first week of November yearly, the said trustees, or the major part of them, in the county aforesaid, shall and may elect and choose three of the inhabitants of the said county to be trustees for the poor of that county, in the stead of the first three named or eldest of the said trustees of the same county; which said first named or eldest trustees shall be, and is by virtue hereof, thencefrom discharged from their office; and the said trustees, or a majority of them, are hereby empowered and required, as soon as the buildings aforesaid are ready for the accommodation and reception of the poor of the said county, to proceed to the appointment of an overseer, and other officers and servants as are mentioned in this act, and to do and perform every other