

C H A P.  
LVII.

of every such person, in an open and visible manner, wear the following badge, to wit, the letters P D, for the poor of Dorchester, and the letters P S, for the poor of Somerset, 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 aforesaid 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every such offender for every such offence, either by ordering his or her usual allowance to be abridged, suspended or withdrawn, or otherwise, by ordering such offender to be whipt, not exceeding ten lashes, and kept to hard labour for any number of days not exceeding twenty, as to the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 poor shall receive into the said alms and 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 witness or witnesses, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds current money.

Penalty on  
keeping booth,  
&c.

XVIII. 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 purchased for the use of 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.

XIX. 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 counties, 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.

General issue  
pleadable, &c.

XX. 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.

A trustee to be  
chosen annual-  
ly, &c.

XXI. 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 counties aforesaid, shall and may elect and choose one of the best inhabitants of the said counties respectively, to be a trustee for the poor of that county in the stead of the first named or eldest of the said trustees of the same county, which said first named or eldest trustee shall be and is by virtue hereof thenceforth discharged from his office.

Trustees to rent  
an house, &c.

XXII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees aforesaid, or a major part of them, to rent a house or houses in the said county respectively, for the reception of such poor, vagrants, vagabonds or offenders, with the necessary lot or lots of ground adjoining to such house or houses, as convenient to the court-house as may be in each county respectively, for the reception and accommodation of the said poor, vagrants, vagabonds and offenders, until a sufficient sum of money be raised in virtue of this act, to enable the said trustees to purchase the land and erect the buildings herein before mentioned, and the justices of each county respectively are hereby empowered and enjoined, annually, at the court for laying the county rate, to assess on the taxable property of the said county a sufficient sum to discharge the rent aforesaid, with the collector's commission of four *per cent.* thereon; which sum so as aforesaid assessed, shall be collected and paid by the said collector to the said trustees respectively, or a majority of them, to be by them applied to the purposes aforesaid; and the said trustees, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered and required, as soon as such house or houses aforesaid are procured on rent, 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 matter and thing necessary to carrying the said act into execution, according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

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