

cular officer to call the parish together, and set them upon this work; for which reason by the statute 2 & 3 Ph. & M. c. 8. surveyors of the highways were ordered to be chosen in every parish^g.

THESE surveyors were originally, according to the statute of Philip and Mary, to be appointed by the constable and churchwardens of the parish; but now^h they are constituted by two neighbouring justices, out of such substantial inhabitants as have either 10 *l.* *per annum* of their own, or rent 30 *l.* a year, or are worth in personal estate 100 *l.*

THEIR office and duty consists in putting in execution a variety of statutes for the repairs of the highways; that is, of ways leading from one town to another: by which it is enacted, 1. That they may remove all annoyances in the highways, or give notice to the owner to remove them; who is liable to penalties on non-compliance. 2. They are to call together all the inhabitants of the parish, six days in every year, to labour in repairing the highways; all persons keeping draughts, or occupying lands, being obliged to send a team for every draught, and for every 50 *l.* a year, which they keep or occupy; and all other persons to work or find a labourer. The work must be completed before harvest; as well for providing a good road for carrying in the corn, as also because all hands are then supposed to be employed in harvest work. And every cartway must be made eight feet wide at the leastⁱ; and may be increased by the quarter sessions to the breadth of four and twenty feet. 3. The surveyors may

^g This office, Mr Dalton (just. cap. 50.) says, exactly answers that of the *curatores viarum* of the Romans: but, I should guess that theirs was an office of rather more dignity and authority than ours, not only from comparing the method of making and mending the Roman ways with those of our country parishes; but also because one Thermus, who was the curator of the Flaminian

way, was candidate for the consulship with Julius Caesar. (*Cic. ad Attic. l. 1. ep. 1.*)

^h Stat. 3 W. & M. c. 12.

ⁱ This, by the laws of the twelve tables at Rome, was the standard for roads that were straight; but in winding ways, the breadth was directed to be sixteen feet. *Ff. 8. 3. 8.*