

Now as the Mischief was two-fold, so was the Remedy, (*viz.*) The first is a general Prohibition by this Chapter, for avoiding all manner of Extortion; the second is likewise a Prohibition to avoid all surcharging the Forests with too many Foresters and Walkers, and other under Officers, so that there should be no more than what were sufficient to look after the Wild Beasts; and by diminishing the number of such Officers, their Extortions would of consequence be diminished.

Now the Extortions which were committed by those Officers was by *Scotale*, (*i. e.*) by keeping Ale-houses in the Forest, and causing Men to come thither to spend their Money for fear of their Displeasure; this was an Offence to be enquired into at the Swainmote, and at the general Sessions of the Forest, by a Jury of twelve Men; and the Forester who was convicted of such Offence, was to be fined, and put out of his Office.

So if a Forester, or any other Officer of the Forest, by Colour of his Office, did oppose those who had any Right of coming there, by compelling them in a clandestine manner, to give him Hay, Oats, or any other Corn, or Lambs or Pigs, or make any manner of Collection of Money or other thing, that they might enjoy their Common quietly, this is Extortion, and prohibited by this Charter.

'Tis likewise to be observed, that before this Charter, the Foresters and all other Persons who had Bailiwicks in Fee, did appoint more Walkers and Under-keepers than were necessary; so that the People were oppressed by the Extortions of a multitude of Officers, of which there was no manner of occasion; and these were executed by them in the Forests for the Maintenance of their Families, they having no Wages nor any Subsistence, but what they got by Extortion; therefore 'tis provided by this Chapter, that there shall be no more Foresters than what shall be reasonably sufficient for keeping the Forest, (*i. e.*) no more than the Regarders shall think convenient when they make their Regard; for if they find there are more than are necessary, or more than have been accustomed in ancient times, then upon their Presentment thereof before the Justices of the Forest, they shall be removed, and the Offenders shall be fined and imprisoned.

So that the number of the Foresters and other Officers of the Forest, is to be established by the Discretion and Oath of the Regarders, and that must be according to the Quantity of the Ground in the Forest, for if there are several Walks