

till at last this became another great Oppression; for those Courts were so frequently kept, that the People could not constantly attend, and thereupon several Fees were exacted from them to excuse their Appearance.

To remedy which Oppression, it was provided by this Charter, that this Court should be held but thrice in a Year, (*viz.*) once in the beginning of fifteen Days before the Feast of *St. John the Baptist*; and this time was once appointed, because care might be taken throughout the Forest, to preserve the Wild Beasts in the time of fawning, which is usually fifteen Days before *Midsummer*, and fifteen Days after; and this is called the *Fence-month*; and about this time also the Agistors do begin to take in all commonable Cattle into the Forests to eat the Herbage in the King's own Woods or Lands, and this continueth till *Holy-Rood Day*, which is fifteen days before *Michaelmas*, and then the next Court of Swainmote is to be held; at which Court the Agistors are to receive the Money due for the Herbage in the Presence of the Foresters and Verderors, that they may record it in their Rolls.

And at this Court the Agistors, take in Cattle not commonable, and those are to feed on the Mast, as Hogs, &c. And at the next Court afterwards, which is held on the Feast of *St. Martin*, then they receive the Money for the same in manner as before mentioned for the Herbage, and this is called Pannage.

Now notwithstanding the negative Words in this Chapter, *viz.* That the Foresters and Verderors and none other shall be compelled to attend these Courts, yet by the Stat. 1 Ed. 3. cap. 8. it appears that the Freeholders and other good and lawful Men of the Forest shall appear at these Courts, to make Inquests and Juries; and the Woodwardes and all other Officers of the Forest must likewise attend, and shall be amerced if they do not; which Amercements must be estreated to the chief Warden of the Forest, that the same may be levied by Distress.

By this Chapter 'tis provided, That every forty Days the Foresters and Verderors shall meet to see the Attachments of the Forest, as well for green Hue as for Hunting by the Presentment of the Foresters, and afore them attached; and by this means another Oppression was prevented, for before the making this Charter, there was no time limited for holding this Court, *viz.* the Court of Attachments, which formerly was called the Woodmote, and since that time the forty Days Court; but the same was held very of-

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