

oft-times alledge, That they could not take Bail, because the Party was a Prisoner of State, &c. Therefore to remedy all those Mischiefs, this most wholesome Law was provided, which we shall briefly endeavour to divide into its several Branches, and explain it to the meanest Capacities, since no Man is sure, but one time or other, he may have occasion to make use of it.

The Act concerneth either first, Persons committed for some other criminal, or supposed criminal Matter, besides Treason or Felony, and these are to have an *Habeas Corpus* immediately. 2. Such who in their *Mittimus* are charged with Treason and Felony, and these shall have the Benefit of the said Writ, after the time herein limited. 1. If any Gaoler, or Under Keeper, shall not deliver a true Copy of the *Mittimus* within six hours after the Prisoner demands it, the Head Gaoler or Keeper forfeits to the Prisoner, for the first Offence, 100 *l.* for the second Offence 200 *l.* and loses his Place. Nor is there any Fee to be paid for the same, the Turnkey must deliver it at his peril. And note, if the Prisoner should be lock'd up, or none suffered to come at him, any Friend of his may demand the same on his behalf.

2. Whatever the criminal Matter be, if Treason or Felony be not expressly charged, any Person on the Prisoner's Behalf, carrying such true Copy of the Commitment to the Lord Chancellor, or any one of the Judges, or Barons of the Exchequer, or upon Oath made, that a Copy was demanded, and denied, he shall grant an *Habeas Corpus*, or forfeit 500 *l.* to the Prisoner. But note, the Request must be made to such Judge in Writing, and attested by two Witnesses.

3. If the Sheriff, or Gaoler, do not carry up the Prisoner, and return the true Causes of his Detainer,

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within