Yesterdays Journey

ROGUE AND VAGABONDS - 1778

To the Constable of *in the said County*

By Virtue of a late ACT of Parliament, Intitul'd, *An Act for reducing the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, Sturdy Beggars, and Vagrants, into one Act, and for the more effectually punishing such, and sending them whither they ought to be sent.*

These are to require you to call to your assistance sufficient Men of your Constablery, and together with them often to make general, privy searches through your Limits and whole Constableries, and such as you find and apprehend upon any search betwixt the date hereof and our next Meeting, you shall cause to be brought before us, or any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, to be examined and dealt with according to Law.

The persons you are to apprehend as Rogues, Vagabonds, Sturdy-Beggars and Vagrants, are described by the said ACT to be those that follow Jugglers, Gypsies, or wandering or counterfeit AEgyptians, pretenders to skill in Physiognomy, or to tell Fortunes, or that use any subtle craft to, deceive his Majesty's subjects, or play or bet at any unlawful Games. or Plays.

All Persons who run away and leave their Wives and Families to the Parish Charge, all that wander abroad begging (except Soldiers and Seafaring Men, who must produce to you Testimonials in Writing, under the Hand and Seal of some Justice of the Peace, setting down the Time and Place of their Landing, and the Place to which they are to pass, and the Time for such their passage) and all that are loitring and refuse to work at common wages.

You are to search the Houses, Cottages, Barns, Out-Houses, and other Places within your Constablery, where the Persons abovesaid are suspected to be entertained and received, and of your doing herein, to give us an account at our next Meeting, which you shall have notice of.

Given under our Hands and Seals the
Day of **1778**