

Liber W. H. Member burning in the hand or forehead Cropping of yeares
 or paines of death, beside Confiscacōn of estate, & the Courts
 p. 173 of this Province hitherto haueing followed the Rules practices
 & Lawes of England in the Judgem^t ag^t & Condemnacion
 of Criminalls being to Rigorous a practice & punishm^t for
 this Province to exact and Imitate touching many offenders
 Guilty of the offences heereafter mencōned, By meanes whereof
 all^r prosecucons ag^t offenders though many times for small
 Crimes & offences, & of small value haue beene hitherto
 drawne & brought to the Prov^l Court of this Province, the
 Justices whereof only haue power of Life & member to the
 verry greate vexacon & Trouble of the good people of this
 Province a greater parte of the Province Liueing soe Remote
 from the Prov^l Court that they many times forbear to prose-
 cute offend^{rs} by reason of the excessiue Charges of Comeing
 to the Prov^l Court & bringing their Wittnesses to prosecute,
 soe that the offend^{rs} many times goe vnpunished to the greate
 encouragem^t of Malefacto^{rs} & for that alsoe the Prov^l Courts are
 nott held aboue Three or ffour times in the yeare, speedy
 Justice for small Crimes is defferred, & the partys accused,
 many times Lye a Long time in prison before their Tryall, to
 the verry greate Charge of the party which may bee in his
 Tryall acquitted, or if Convicted the Charge many times falls
 on the County where the offender liues or on the Country, to
 the greate burthen of the Province for the Preuencōn whereof
 for the future, Bee itt enacted by the Right Honourable the
 Lord Prop^{ry} by & with the advice & Consent of the vpper &
 Lower houses of this p^rsent Generall Assembly and the
 Authority of the same that itt shall & may bee Lawfull to &
 for the seuerall & Respectiue Justices or Comission^{rs} of the
 seuerall & Respectiue Countys within this Province, in their
 seuerall & Respectiue County Courts, To heare & determine
 all Theiueings or Stealings whatsoever (Robery Burglary &
 house breakings only excepted) whether itt bee of any Horse
 Mare Gelding, Colt Cow Calfe ox Bull Steere Rames Ewes or
 Lambes Goates Hoggs Piggs or any manner of Poultry or
 other goods or Chattles whatsoever not exceeding the value of
 aboue one Thousand pounds of Tobacco, & all & all manner of
 persons thereof Lawfully Convicted by due Course of Law in
 any of the County Courts aforesaid shall or may Cause to bee
 punished by whipping or Pilloring or both, as the Justices
 before whom such Conviccon shall happen to bee, shall thinke
 most agreeable to the demerritt of the offend^r any Law statute
 or vseage to the Contrary Notwithstanding, And bee itt
 further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That any offender
 Theiueing or Stealing as aforesaid that shall bee Convicted
 thereof by Confession of the party, or by one sufficient or