

C H A P.  
I.

reproachful Manner, relating to matter of Religion, to forfeit 10 s. Sterling for each Offence; one half to the Person reproached, the other half to his Lordship: Or, in default of Payment, to be publicly Whipped, and suffer Imprisonment without Bail or Mainprize, until the Offender shall satisfy the Party reproached, by asking him or her respectively Forgiveness publicly for such Offence, before the chief Officer or Magistrate of the Town or Place where the Offence shall be given. (4.) Persons profaning the Lord's-Day, by frequent Swearing, Drunkenness, or by any uncivil or disorderly Recreation, or by Working on that Day (unless in case of absolute Necessity) to forfeit, for the 1st Offence 2 s. 6 d. Sterling, for the 2d Offence 5 s. Sterling, and for the 3d Offence, and every other Offence afterwards 10 s. Sterling; and in default of Payment for the 1st and 2d Offence, to be imprisoned 'til he or she shall publicly, in open Court, before the chief Commander; Judge, or Magistrate, of that County, Town, or Precinct, wherein such Offence shall be committed, acknowledge the Scandal and Offence he hath in that respect given against GOD, and the good and civil Government of this Province; and for the 3d Offence, and every Time after, to be publicly Whipped. (5.) And whereas the enforcing of the Conscience in Matters of Religion, hath frequently fallen out to be of dangerous Consequence in those Common Wealths where it hath been practiced, and for the more quiet and peaceable Government of this Province, and the better to preserve mutual Love and Unity among the Inhabitants, &c. No Person or Persons whatsoever, within this Province, or the Islands, Ports, Harbours, Creeks, or Havens, thereunto belonging, professing to believe in JESUS CHRIST, shall from henceforth be any Ways troubled, molested, or discountenanced, for, or in respect of his or her Religion, nor in the free Exercise thereof, within this Province, or the Islands thereunto belonging, nor any Way compelled to the Belief or Exercise of any other Religion, against his or her Consent, so as they be not unfaithful to the Lord Proprietary, or molest or conspire against the Civil Government established, or to be established, in this Province, under him or his Heirs. And any Person presuming, contrary to this Act and the true Intent and meaning thereof, directly or indirectly, either in Person or Estate, wilfully to disturb, wrong, trouble, or molest, any Person whatsoever within this Province professing to believe in JESUS CHRIST, for or in respect of his or her Religion, or the free Exercise thereof within this Province, otherwise than is provided for in this Act, shall pay treble Damages to the Party so wronged and molested, and also forfeit 20 s. Sterling for every such Offence, &c. one half to his Lordship, the other half to the Party molested, and on default of paying the Damage or Fine, be punished by public Whipping, and Imprisonment at the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary, &c.

## C H A P. II. [ \*\* ]

Passed 21st of April 1649. *An Act for Punishment of such as shall Counterfeit the Lord Proprietary, or his Heirs, Lords and Proprietaries of this Province, Great Seal of this Province.* Lib. C and WH. fol. 118. Lib. WH. fol. 147. and Lib. WH and L. fol. 8.

Confirmed among the perpetual Acts, 1676, ch. 2.

## C H A P. III. [ \*\* ]

Ditto. *An Act concerning purchasing Lands from the Indians.* Lib. C and WH. fol. 114. Lib. WH. fol. 116. and Lib. WH and L. fol. 5.

Confirmed among the perpetual Laws, 1676, ch. 2.

N. B. The Preamble recites, that divers Persons have heretofore purchased or accepted of Lands, &c. from the *Indians*, and made use of and possessed the same, without any lawful Title and Authority derived from the Lord Proprietary, neglecting also to take out Grants from his Lordship, under the Great Seal, for such Lands as have been due to them by virtue of his Lordship's Conditions of Plantations, or other Warrant from his Lordship, which Proceedings are not only very great Contempts and Prejudice to his Lordship's Dignity and Rights, but also of such dangerous Consequence, if not timely prevented, that they may hereafter bring a great Confusion in the Government and public Peace of this Province. *Be it therefore Enacted by the Lord Proprietary, with the Assent and Approbation of the Upper and Lower House of this Assembly, &c.*

(1.) All Purchases or Acquisitions whatsoever, of any Lands, &c. within this Province, made or to be made, from any Person whatsoever, not deriving at the same Time a lawful Title thereto, by, from, or under, his Lordship or his Heirs, under the Great Seal, shall be void and null.

(2.) It shall be lawful for his Lordship to enter upon, seize, possess and dispose of, any such Lands, &c. so purchased or acquired from any *Indian* or other, at his Will and Pleasure, unless such Purchaser, at the Time of such Purchase or Acquisition, have some lawful Right or Title to such Lands, &c. by some Grant from his Lordship, &c. under the Great Seal.

## C H A P. IV. [ \*\* ]

Ditto. *An Act for the Punishment of certain Offences against the Peace and Safety of the Province.* Lib. C and WH. fol. 116. Lib. WH. fol. 146. and Lib. WH and L. fol. 7.

Confirmed among the perpetual Laws, 1676, ch. 2.

## C H A P. V. [ \*\* ]

Ditto. *An Act against Fugitives.* REP. 1676, ch. 2. and 1678, ch. 16.

## C H A P. VI. [ \*\* ]

Ditto. *An Act touching Indians.* Lib. C and WH. fol. 121. Lib. WH. fol. 147. and Lib. WH and L. fol. 10.

Confirmed among the perpetual Laws, 1676, ch. 2.

N. B. By this Law it was Felony of Death (without forfeiture of Estate) to take, entice, surprize, transport or sell, any Friend *Indian*: And a Penalty of 1000<sup>lb</sup> Tobacco laid on such as should deliver any Gun or Ammunition to any *Indian*, &c.

C H A P.