Maryland State Archives, S455-D000009A.TIF



# Acts and Orders of Assembly

Confirmed by the Lord Proprietary by an Instrument under his hand & Seal dated 26 August 1650 Philadelphia

Assented unto Enacted and made at a General Session of the said Assembly holden at Saint Maries on the One and twentieth day of April Anno Domini 1649 as followeth viz.

## An Act concerning Religion

Forasmuch as in a well Governed and Christian Commonwealth matters concerning Religion & the honour of God ought in the first place to be taken into serious Consideration and endeavoured to be settled

Be it therefore Ordered and Enacted by the right honble Cecilius Lord Baron of Baltimore Absolute Lord and Proprietary of this Province with the advice and Consent of the General Assembly that whatsoever Person or Persons within this Province and the Islands thereto Belonging shall from henceforth Blaspheme God that is Curse him or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the Son of God or shall deny the holy Trinity the Father Son and Holy Ghost or the Godhead of any of the said three Persons of the Trinity or the unity of the Godhead or shall use or utter any reproachful speeches words or Language Concerning the said holy Trinity or any of the said three Persons thereof shall be punished with death & Confiscation or forfeiture of all his or her lands and Goods to the Lord Proprietary and his heirs and be it also Enacted by the Authority and with the advice and assent aforesaid that whatsoever Person or Persons

Maryland State Archives, S455-D00010A.TIF



shall from henceforth use or utter any Reproachful Words or speeches concerning the blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of Our Saviour or the holy Apostles and Evangelists or any of them shall in such Case for the first Offence forfeit to the said Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords and Proprietarys of this Province the sum of five Pound Sterling or the Value thereof to be levied upon the Goods and Chattels of every such Person so Offending Due in case such Offender or Offenders shall not then have Goods and Chattels sufficient for the satisfying of such forfeiture or that the same be not speedily satisfied that then such Offender or Offenders shall be publickly whipt and be imprisoned during the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary or the Lieutenant or chief Governor of this Province for the time being and that every such Offender or Offenders for every Second Offence shall forfeit ten Pound Sterling or the Value thereof to be levied as aforesaid or in Case such Offender or Offenders shall not then have Goods and Chattels Sufficient for the Satisfying of such forfeiture then to be publickly and severely whipt and imprisoned as before is Expressed and that every Person or Persons before mentioned offending herein the third time shall for such third Offence forfeit all his lands and Goods and be for ever Banished and expelled out of this Province and be it also further enacted by the same authority advise and Consent that whatsoever Person or Persons shall from henceforth upon any occasion of offence or otherwise in a reproachful manner or way declare call or Denominate any Person or Persons whatsoever inhabiting Residing trafficking trading or Conversing w^th^ in

Maryland State Archives, S455-D000011A.TIF



this Province or within any the Ports Harbours
Creeks or Havens to the same belonging an Heretick,
Schismatick, Idolator, Puritan, Independent Presbyterian
Antanomian, Baronist, Roundhead, Seperatist, Popish
Priest, Jesuit, Jesuited Papist, Lutheran, Calvenist, Anabap-
tist, Brownist or any other name or term in a reproach-
ful manner relating to matter of Religion shall for every
such Offence forfeit and Lose the sum of ten shillings
Sterling or the Value thereof to be Levyed on the Goods
and Chattels of every such Offender and Offenders the
One half thereof to be forfeited and paid unto the Person
and Persons of whom such reproachful words are and
shall be Spoken or uttered and the other half thereof
to the Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords and Pro-
prietarys of this Province but if such Person or Persons
who shall at any time utter or speak any such re-
proachful words or language shall not have Goods &
Chattels sufficient and Over within this Province
to be taken to satisfy the Penalty aforesaid or that the
same be not otherwise speedily satisfied that then the
Person or Persons so Offending shall be publickly whipt
and shall suffer imprisonment and without Bail or main-
prize until he she or they respectively shall satisfy the
Party so Offended or Grieved by such reproachful Lan-
guage by asking him or her respectively forgiveness pub-
lickly for such his Offence before the Magistrate or chief
Officer or Officers of the Town or Place where the Offence
shall be Given and be it Further likewise enacted by
the Authority and Consent aforesaid that every Per-
son and Persons within this Province that shall at

Maryland State Archives, S455-D000012A.TIF



any time hereafter prophane the Sabbath or Lords day Called Sunday by frequent swearing drunkenness or by any uncivill or disorderly recreation or by working on that day when Absolute necessity doth not require it shall for every such first Offence forfeit 2s 6d sterling or the Value thereof and for the second Offence 5s sterling or the Value thereof and for the third Offence and so for every time he shall Offend in like manner afterwards 10s Sterling or the Value thereof and for the second Offence five Offenders shall not have sufficient Goods or Chattels within this Province to satisfy any of the said Penalties respectively hereby imposed for prophaning the Sabbath or Lords day called Sunday as aforesaid that in every such Case the Party so Offending shall for the first and Second Offence in that kind be imprisoned till he or she shall publickly in open Court before the chief Commander Judge or Magistrate of that County Town or Precinct where such Offence shall be Committed acknowledged the scandall and Offence he hath in that respect Given against God and the Good and Civil Government of this Province and for the third Offence and for every time after shall also be publickly whipt and whereas the inforcing of the Conscience in matters of Religion hath frequently fallen out to be of dangerous Consequence in those Commonwealths where it hath been practised and for the more quiet and peacable Government of this Province and the better to preserve mutual Love and Amity amongst the Inhabitants thereof Be it therefore also by the Lord Proprietary with the advice & Consent

Maryland State Archives, S455-D000013A.TIF



of this Assembly Ordained and enacted except as in this
present Act be before declared and set forth that no Person
or Persons whatsoever within this Province or the Islands
Ports Harbours Creeks or Havens thereunto belonging to
believe in Jesus Christ shall from henceforth be any way
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 ways
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 that all and
every Person and Persons that shall presume Contrary
to this Act and the true intent and meaning thereof
directly or indirectly either in Word or Deed willfully
to wrong disturb 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 other than is provided for
in this Act that such Person or Persons so offending shall
be Compelled to pay treble damages to the party so wronged
or molested and for every such Offence shall forfeit
20 Sterling in money or the value thereof half thereof
for the use of the Lord Proprietary and his heirs Lords
and Proprietarys of this Province and the other half
for the use of the Party so wronged or molested as aforesaid
and if the Party so Offending as aforesaid shall Refuse
or be unable to recompence the Party so Grieved or to satisfy
such Fine or forfeiture then such Offender shall be severely

Maryland State Archives, S455-D000014A.TIF



by publick whipping and imprisonment during the Pleasure of the Lord Proprietary or his Lieutenant or other Governor of this Province for the time being without Bail or Mainprize and be it also further enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Sheriff or other Officer or Officers to be from time to time authorized and appointed for that purpose of the County Town or Precinct where Every particular Offence in this present act contained shall happen at any time to be Committed and whereupon there is hereby a forfeiture fine or penalty imposed shall from time to time distrain and seize the Goods and estate of every such Person so offending as aforesaid against this present Act or any part thereof and sell the same or any Part thereof for the full satisfaction of such Forfeiture fine or Penalty as aforesaid Restoring unto the Party so Offending the Remainder or Overplus of the said Goods or estate after such a satisfaction so made as aforesaid

The Freemen have assented Tho Hatton
Enacted by the Governor William Stone

An Act for punishment of such as shall Counterfeit the Lord Proprietary or his heirs Lords and Proprietys of this Province Great seal of this Prov

Be it enacted by the Lord Proprietary of this Province by and with the Consent of this Assembly that what Person or Persons soever shall presume to Counterfeit the Great Seal of this Province or the sign manual or Signet Seal or Arms of the Lord Proprietary of this