

- L. H. J. Estate, And the Courts of this Province hitherto having followed the Rules practices and Laws of England in the Judgem^t ag^t and Condemnaⁿ of Criminals being too Rigorous a practice and punishm^t for this Province to Exact and Imitate Touching Many offenders guilty of the offences hereafter mentioned by means whereof all prosecutions against offenders tho' many times for small Crimes and offences and of small value have been hither to drawn and brought to the provinciall Court of this province the Justices whereof have only power of Life and member to the very Great Vexation & Trouble of the Good peopell of this Province a greater part of the Province Liveing so remote from the provin^l Court that they many times forbear to prosecute Offenders by reason of the Excesive Charges of Comeing to the Pro^l Court and bringing their witnesses to Prosecute so that the
- p. 98 Offenders many times Go unpunished to the Great Encouragement of Malefactors and for that also the Provin^l Courts are not Held above three or four Times in the Year Speedy Justice for small Crimes is deferred and the partys accused many times lay a long time in Prison before their tryal to the very great charge of the party which may be in this tryal acquitted or If Convicted the Charge many times falls on the County to the Great Burthen of this Province for Prevention whereof for the future be it Enacted by the right Hon^{ble} the Lord Prop^{ry} by and wth the advice and Consent of the Upper and Lower Houses of this Present Gen^l Assembly and the authority of the same That it shall and may be lawfull to and for the sever^l and Respective Justices or Commissioners of the severall and respective Counties wth in this Province in their Severall and respective County Courts to hear and Determine all Theiveings or Stealings whatsoever Robbery burglary & house breaking only Excepted whether it be of any horse Mare Guiding Colt Cow Calf Ox & Bull Stear rams ewes or Lams Goats or Hoggs Piggs of any manner of Poultry or other Goods or Chattells whatsoever not Exceeding one Thousand pounds of Tob and All & all manner of Persons thereof Lawfully Convicted by Due Course of Law in any of the County Courts Af^d shall or may Cause to be punnisht
- p. 99 by whipping or Pilloring or both as the Justices before whom such Conviction shall happen to be shall think most agreeable to the Demerit of the offender any Law Statute or useage to the Contrary notwithstanding And be it further Enacted by the Authority afs^d that any offender theiveing or Stealing as afs^d that shall be Convicted thereof by confession of the party or by one Sufficient or Lawfull Witness or Evidence not being the party Injured or Damnified shall restore four fold to the owner of the Thing or goods so Stolen or purloyned as