Acts. 619

And be it further Enacted, That any Slave, who shall attempt to Liber B.L.C. burn any Dwelling-House, or Outhouse contiguous to, or used with any Dwelling-House, or any other House wherein there shall be any Person or Persons, or any Goods, Merchandizes, Tobacco, Indian Corn, or other Grain or Fodder, and shall be thereof convict as aforesaid, shall suffer Death as a Felon, without Benefit of Clergy.

And be it further Enacted, That every Slave committing any of [Manner of the Felonies herein before mentioned, or any other Offence which Slaves.1 may by Law Subject such Slave to the Pains of Death, shall be committed to the Sheriff of the County where the Offence shall be committed; and that at the next Assizes or County Court, which shall first happen to be held for the County where the Offence shall be committed, the Justices of Assize, or either of them, or County Court, which shall first happen, shall and may, by Virtue of this Act, try every such Offender or Offenders according to Law; and upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders, upon his, her, or their voluntary Confession, or the Verdict of a Jury upon the Testimony of one or more legal or credible Witness or Witnesses, or even the Testimony or the Evidence of other Slaves, corroborated with such pregnant Circumstances as shall convince and satisfy the Jury who shall try the Fact, of the Guilt of such Slave or Slaves, to give Judgment according to the Nature and Quality of the Offence.

And be it further Enacted, That any Slave or Slaves, who shall [Punishment give any false Testimony against any Slave or Slaves who shall be giving false prosecuted as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convict, shall Testimony.] have one Ear cut off on the Day of his or her Conviction, and receive thirty-nine Stripes on the bare Back, and that the other Ear shall be cropp'd the next Day, and the like Number of Stripes given the Offender on his or her bare Back.

And to the End that such Slave or Slaves, as shall be produced as a Witness or Witnesses against other Slave or Slaves, may be deterred from giving false Testimony, Be it Enacted, That the Justices of Assize, or either of them, then sitting, or the Justice of the County Court who shall preside, shall admonish and charge such Witness or Witnesses to declare the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth; and acquaint him, her, or them, with the Danger and Conse- p. 537 quence of giving false Testimony.

And be it further Enacted, That when any Slave shall be con- [Owners of demned to suffer Death, that such Slave shall be valued by the Jus-executed Slaves to be tices of Assize, or either of them, then present, or County Court, paid the according to the best of their Knowlege; which said whole Value them.] shall be paid by the Treasurer of the respective Shore on which such Execution shall be, on the Certificate of such Sheriff, out of the Public Stock of this Province in the Hands of such Treasurer, without Fee or Reward, to the Master or Owner of such Slave, in case the said Slave be actually executed,