

At a Session of ASSEMBLY, begun and held at the City of *Annapolis*, the 26th Day of *April*, in the 22d Year of the Dominion of the Right Honourable CHARLES, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of *Maryland* and *Avalon*, Lord Baron of *Baltimore*, &c. and ended the 28th Day of *May*, Anno Domini 1737. The following Laws were Enacted.

SAMUEL OGLE, Esq; Governor.

C H A P. I.

Passed 28<sup>th</sup>  
May 1737.

*An Act for the further explaining and carrying into Execution, \* An Act for laying out and applying Three Thousand Five Hundred Pounds Current Money of Maryland, to the Uses therein mentioned. Lib. B.L.C. fol. 169.*

\* 1733, ch. 8. Explanatory Act 1735, ch. 2.

C H A P. II.

Ditto.

An ACT for the more effectual Punishment of certain Offenders, and for taking from them the Benefit of Clergy. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 170.*

Preamble.

**F**ORASMUCH as all the Laws heretofore made for the Punishment of Offenders, and for Securing honest Men in their just Property, are found by Experience to be insufficient for those Purposes; and that the poorer Sort of People, who are obliged, for want of better Conveniencies, to keep their Goods in Tobacco-Houses, and other Out-Houses, are more exposed to be Pillaged and Robbed of their Substance than Persons of greater Ability; and that considerable Part of the Property of People of all Conditions, are kept in Out-Houses, not only remote from their Dwelling-Houses, but also very weak in themselves, and easily broken; which hath given frequent Opportunities to Offenders to break into such Houses, and to Steal from thence divers Goods and Chattels, to the utter undoing of some poor Persons, and the prejudice of all Sufferers. And whereas several other Offenders have Stolen Boats and other Vessels, and even Slaves; which Practice is of the most dangerous Tendency, and may, if not timely prevented, occasion Piracies, and all Manner of Villainies; and that Offenders have been encouraged to commit the said Crimes, by the Lenity of our Laws, and Expectation of having the Benefit of Clergy, when detected:

Penalty on  
Persons breaking Tobacco, or other Out-Houses, and stealing thence to the Value of 5<sup>s</sup>. Sterling.

II. For the more effectual Prevention of which Crimes, and Punishment of such Offenders as shall commit any of them; *Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same,* That any Person or Persons, who shall, after the Tenth Day of *September* next, break any Tobacco-House, or other Out-Houses whatsoever, and Steal from thence any Goods or Chattels, to the Value of Five Shillings Sterling; or who shall counsel, hire, command, aid, or abet, any Person or Persons, to commit the said Offences; or who shall be Accessaries to any of the said Offences, and be thereof Convict, by Confession, upon his, her, or their Arraignment, Verdict of a Jury, or be Out-lawed; or who shall obstinately or of Malice stand Mute, or peremptorily Challenge above Twenty, shall suffer Death as a Felon or Felons, without Benefit of Clergy.

III. Pro-