

## CHAPTER 4.

AN ACT for the better supporting the Magistrates in the Administration of Justice within this province.

WHEREAS it is obvious to this present session of assembly, Preamble.  
that there is an absolute necessity of a law for the better preserving the honour, dignity and authority of his lordship, in the persons of his magistrates in the administration of justice, from the insults, affronts and indecent demeanor before them, of the practitioners of the law, and other officers and persons, that have hitherto been so frequent in all the courts of this province, as well as out of court ;

SEC. 2. *Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and by the authority of the same,* That the several magistrates, judges of the several courts within this province, be and are hereby authorized and strictly required, to observe the demeanor of all practitioners of the law before them, as well as all ministerial officers, or other persons who shall use any indecent liberties to the lessening the grandeur and authority of their respective courts, and to discountenance and punish the same, according to the nature of the offence, either by suspending such practitioner of the law from their practice, perpetually, or for a time, or to punish such practitioners, or ministerial officers or other persons, by fine, at the discretion of such court before whom such offence shall be committed, not exceeding four thousand pounds of tobacco in the superior courts, nor two thousand pounds of tobacco in the several county courts, within this province, on each offender, for any one offence. Courts may punish practitioners, &c.

SEC. 3. *And likewise,* All and every the several magistrates, in the execution of their office out of court, are hereby required, in like manner, to observe the carriage and demeanor of all persons whatsoever that shall come before them, and if any person or persons shall behave themselves indecently towards any of them (or contemn their authority when lawfully required to assist them,) in the execution of their office, or otherwise, it shall and may be lawful for any of the several courts within this province, upon information to them made by any such magistrate or magistrates, against any person or persons who have so misbehaved themselves, or contemned their authority, without any formality in law, to call such offender or offenders before them, and punish them by fine, imprisonment, or by setting in the stocks, at their discretion, the fine not to exceed one thousand pounds of tobacco each offender, the imprisonment not to exceed two days, nor the setting in the stocks above two hours, for any one offence, all which fines to be levied by way Magistrates to observe the conduct of persons, &c.