

CHAP. 23. An act for the better regulation of attornies and solicitors.

CHAP. 24. Parliament.

CHAP. 25. An act for the more effectual prevention and further punishment of forgery, perjury and subornation of perjury, and to make it felony to steal bonds, notes or other securities for payment of money.

CHAP. 23. This statute contains a variety of provisions as to attornies, &c. in England, but was not applicable to the province. See the notes on 15 Edw. 2, Ch. 1, and 4 Hen. 4, Ch. 18.

CHAP. 25. See the note on 5 Eliz. Ch. 14. It is a fact well known that this statute and 7 George 2, Ch. 22, respecting the forgery of the writings therein mentioned have been rigorously executed in Great-Britain, as tending to support the commercial credit of the kingdom; but no case is to be found in the records, to shew that they were used or practised under in the province. And a review of the acts of assembly on the subject, will tend to prove that they were not.

In 1733, an act was passed for emitting bills of credit, which directed that the counterfeiters of such bills, &c. should suffer death without benefit of clergy; under which a person was indicted in 1742, and sentenced to death. It was made a capital offence to forge the bills of credit emitted by the act of 1766, Ch. 26, and the same as to the acts of 1769, Ch. 14, and 1773, Ch. 26.

There was also in 1758, an act making it penal to forge or counterfeit the bills of credit of Virginia, &c. which expired in 1762. And in the inspection law of 1763, the forgery or counterfeiting of the stamps, notes or receipts, was made punishable by whipping and pillory. The subsequent inspection laws have provided for such offences, short of capital punishment.

The act of March 1778, Ch. 17, declared, that persons who should forge the certificates to be issued thereby, should suffer death as felons without benefit of clergy, and the like provision was made as to the money to be issued, under the act of May 1781, Ch. 23, Sec. 9.

The act of 1790, Ch. 5, and the other acts respecting the banks, may be referred to for the punishment of forging, or stealing bank notes, checks, &c. but it will be recollected that in 1806, an act was passed by which the forgery of bank notes, negotiable notes, &c. was made felony without benefit of clergy, which was repealed in 1808; probably from a belief that the severity of