

protested, more than 20 per Cent. Damages, besides the Debt sued for, together with ordinary Costs of Suit.

Blasphemy, Swearing, &c.

I. *II W. 3. p. 82.* If any person whatsoever inhabiting within this Province shall Blaspheme, that is, Curse God, deny our Saviour to be the Son of God, or deny the Holy Trinity, or the Godhead of any of the three Persons, or the Unity of the Godhead, or shall utter any reproachful words or Language concerning the Holy Trinity, or any of the 3 persons thereof, he or she shall for the first Offence be bored through the Tongue, and fined 20 *l.* Sterling to the King, towards defraying the County charge where the Offence was committed; or if the Party hath not an Estate sufficient to answer that sum, then to suffer 6 months Imprisonment. For the 2d Offence, he or she shall be stigmatiz'd in the Forehead with the Letter B, and fined 40 *l.* Sterling to the uses aforesaid, or Imprisonment for one whole year. And for the 3d Offence, he or she so offending, and thereof legally convicted, shall suffer Death, with confiscation of all their Goods and Chattels to the King.

II. Every Person convicted of Fornication, shall for every time so offending, be fined to the King 20 *s.* Sterling, or 400 *l.* of Tobacco, or receive Corporal Punishment, by whipping at the discretion of the Court, not exceeding 39 Lashes. And every Person convicted of Adultery shall be fined 40 *s.* Sterl. or 800 *l.* of Tobacco, or receive Corporal punishment as aforesaid.

III. Every Person who shall harbour, entertain or provide for the maintenance of any lewd Woman, or frequent the Company of any such, after Publick Admonition by the Minister, or Church Wardens, or Vestry of the Parish, shall for every such Offence undergo such Pains and Penalties, as by this Act are provided against those who are convicted of Fornication or Adultery.

IV. If any Person Prophanely Swear or Curse in the hearing of any one Justice of Peace or Head Officer of a Town, or that shall be thereof convicted by the Oath of one Witness before any one Justice or other Head Officer, or by Confession of the Party, he shall forfeit 5 *s.* Sterl. to the King, to the use of the Poor of the County,