

Parish, except by fire or such like unavoidable accident, or in case of the death of any such Minister having the charge of such Library, the Vestry of the said Parish shall immediately take the said Library into their custody & keeping and pay their receipts for the same as above directed, and shall in all points be answerable for the same, except by fire or such like accident as aforesaid; And for the better preserving and securing the said Librarys, the learned and worthy Doctor *Thomas Bray* or his Successors is hereby appointed chief Visitor of all and every the said Librarys within the said Province.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that one Act of Assembly made at a General Assembly held at the Port of *Annapolis* the sixteenth day of September 1696. intituled *An Act for securing the Parochial Librarys of this Province* be and is hereby Repealed and made Void & of no Effect.

*An Act for punishment of Blaspheming, Fornication, Adultery, prophane swearing and cursing.*

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Kings most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, that from and after the publication hereof, if any person or persons who do ever inhabit or being within this Province shall blaspheme G O D (that is to say, deny him, and deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the SON of GOD, or that deny the Holy Trinity, the FATHER SON and HOLY GHOST, or the Unity of any of the three Persons or the unity of the God head, or shall utter any reproachful speeches, Words or Languages concerning the HOLY TRINITY or any of the three Persons thereof, for his her or their first offence shall be bound to pay by the Tongue and fined the Sum of twenty pounds Sterling to his Majesty towards the defraying the County charge where the said offence shall be committed, to be levied upon his her or their Goods & Chattels, Lands and Tenements (if any they have) but if such offender or offenders have not Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements to the value aforesaid, then such offender or offenders shall suffer six months imprisonment without bail or mainprize, & for every second offence whereof every such offender or offenders shall be legally convicted, he she or they so offending as aforesaid shall be stigmatized in the Forehead with the letter B, and to be fined forty pounds Sterling to the uses aforesaid, and in case he she or they so offending as aforesaid shall not have Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements to the value aforesaid, every such offender or offenders shall suffer imprisonment for the space of one whole year without bail or mainprize as aforesaid, and for every third offence whereof any such offender or offenders shall be legally convicted as aforesaid, he she or they so offending shall suffer death without execution of ill, his her or their Goods and Chattels to his Majesty his Heirs and Assigns.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority Advice & Consent aforesaid, that every person or persons who shall be convicted of any offence as aforesaid, and being thereof convicted, shall be bound to pay by the Court before whom such matter shall be brought, a fine or sum of money in the sum of twenty Shilling Sterling, or four pounds Sterling, to be levied &c. for and towards the defraying the County charge where the same shall be committed, or receive corporal punishment as aforesaid, or a combination of the said Court, not exceeding thirty nine lashes, and if any person or persons committing Adultery and being thereof legally convicted shall be bound as aforesaid for the uses aforesaid, in the sum of forty Shilling Sterling or six hundred pounds of Tobacco to be levied as aforesaid, or receive corporal punishment as aforesaid. And

Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, that every person or persons who shall harbour, entertain and provide for the maintenance of any lewd Woman or Women, or frequent her or their company; or the company of any such lewd Woman or Women, after public admonition to avoid the same given by the Minister, or Churchwardens, or Vestry of the parish or parishes where such person or persons dwell; and in case that being Minister by the Churchwardens of the same Vestry aforesaid, shall at any time it shall be proved that he she or they shall cohabit together, or frequent the company of each other after the admonition given as aforesaid under-