

IV. This Act to continue for Three Years, and unto the End of the next Session of Assembly, which shall happen after the End of the said Three Years. C H A P. XI. Continuance.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

This Act is farther continued by 1754, ch. 7; 1757, ch. 29; and 1762, ch. 11.

C H A P. XII.

An Act to enable the Justices of Charles County, to levy a ^a Sum of Tobacco on the Taxable Inhabitants of Port-Tobacco Parish in the said County, for the Purposes therein mentioned. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 534.* Passed 8th June 1751.

^a Viz. 140,000^{lb} Tobacco by Four equal Assessments, for Building a new Parish Church. A Supplementary Act in 1753, ch. 12.

C H A P. XIII.

An Act continuing an Act, entitled, ^b An additional and explanatory Act to the Act, entitled, An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts, to levy and raise Tobacco to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 535. EXP.* Ditto.

^b 1748, ch. 20, hereby continued 3 Years, &c.

C H A P. XIV.

An ACT for the more effectual Punishment of Negroes and other Slaves, and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders; and a Supplementary Act to an Act, entitled, * An Act to prevent the tumultuous Meeting and other Irregularities of Negroes and other Slaves, and directing the Manner of Trying Slaves. *Lib. B.L.C. fol. 536.* Ditto.

* 1723, ch. 15. A Supplementary and Explanatory Act in 1753, ch. 26.

WHEREAS the Laws in Force for the Punishment of Slaves, are found insufficient to prevent their committing very great Crimes and Disorders; and that a further Provision is necessary to keep them in proper Bounds and due Order; and for a more speedy Method to bring them to Justice than is prescribed by the Laws heretofore made:

II. Be it therefore 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 if any Slave or Slaves, shall at any Time consult, advise, conspire, or attempt to raise any Insurrection within this Province, or to Murder or Poison any Person or Persons whatsoever, or to commit a Rape upon any White Woman, or to Burn any House or Houses, and be thereof convict by Confession or Verdict, or who shall of Malice stand Mute, or peremptorily Challenge above the Number of Twenty Jurors, shall suffer Death, as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy. Punishment of Slaves convict of Insurrection, Murder, or Poison, or Ravishing a White Woman, or Burning Houses, &c.

III. And be it further Enacted, That any Slave who shall attempt to Burn any Dwelling-house, or Out-house contiguous to, or used with, any Dwelling-house, or any other House, wherein there shall be any Person or Persons, or any Goods, Merchandizes, Tobacco, Indian Corn, or other Grain, or Fodder, and shall be thereof convict as aforesaid, shall suffer Death as a Felon, without Benefit of Clergy. Attempting to burn Dwelling Houses, or Out Houses contiguous thereto, &c.

IV. And be it further Enacted, That every Slave committing any of the Felonies herein before mentioned, or any other Offence, which may by Law subject such Slave to the Pains of Death, shall be committed to the Sheriff of the County where the Offence shall be committed; and that at the next Assizes, or County Court, which shall first happen, to be held for the County where the Offence shall be committed, the Justices of Assize, or either of them, or County Court, which shall first happen, shall and may, by virtue of Slaves committing Felonies, punishable by Death, to be tried at the next Assize or County Court.