

An ACT to prevent counterfeiting the paper money of other colonies.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the want of a sufficient quantity of circulating specie, to answer the purposes of commerce, or the exigencies of government, hath induced this and most others of the British colonies in America to circulate certain paper notes; as the representative of specie; to pass in payments for limited periods, when the redemption is provided for, the counterfeiting of which is usually made felony in the respective governments where they are emitted; but it is supposed that sundry evil minded persons have lately established presses in some of the colonies, for preparing counterfeiters of the paper of others, and by that means such forged paper is thrown into circulation with greater facility and security to the authors thereof; and it being judged reasonable, that neighbouring countries, having intercourse in trade, should provide, so far as in them lies, against the debasing of their medium of commerce:

Persons counterfeiting, &c. paper money, to suffer death.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable the lord proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his governor, and the upper and lower houses of assembly, and the authority of the same, That if any person or persons shall, within this province, prepare, engrave, stamp or print, or cause or procure to be prepared, engraved, stamped or printed, the counterfeit resemblance of any paper money, which now is, or hereafter may be, circulated in payments by legislative authority, in any British colony or plantation in America, with intent, that such counterfeit paper shall be passed in payments, whether the same be so passed or not; or if any person or persons shall, in this province, pay, or tender in payment, any such counterfeit money, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited, altered or erased, every such person, being lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged a felon, and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy.

Continuance.

III. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue and be in force, from and after the passing thereof, for and during the term of five years, and to the end of the next session of assembly which shall happen after the end of the said five years.

This act expired with June session 1778, but it was revived by the act of November, 1779, ch. 12, and is to continue seven years, &c. the legislature not adverting to the words "colonies, British colony, plantation, &c."

C H A P. VI.

An ACT to enable the commissioners for emitting bills of credit to provide stationary for the use of the upper and lower houses of assembly.

They are to lay out, in London, the sum of £. 30 sterling, including charges, in parchment, paper, ink-powder and quills, for the use of the two houses of assembly.

C H A P. VII.

An ACT to continue the acts therein mentioned.

C H A P. VIII.

An ACT for the relief of John M'Lure and others. PR.

C H A P. IX.

An ACT for the relief of the poor in Frederick county.

The assessments heretofore made having turned out inadequate to the purpose for which they were made, the county court, in November next, is to assess 20lb. of tobacco per poll, in November, 1774, 15 per poll, and in every November afterwards, it is to assess not exceeding 10 per poll, to satisfy the trustees for what they shall have expended, an account thereof being first allowed by the court.

This act was to continue seven years, &c. it has not since been again continued.

C H A P. X.

An ACT to empower William Bernard and Thomas Jett, or either of them, to sell and convey the lands therein mentioned, agreeable to the directions of the last will and testament of John Morton Jordan, Esq; deceased. PR.

C H A P.