

said Offender shall be adjudged to suffer Corporal Punishment by Whipping upon his or their bare Bodies, till the Blood do appear, to many Stripes not exceeding Thirty nine, as the Justices, before whom such Conviction shall be, shall adjudge.

Provided, That this Act shall not be construed to extend, as to the Fine, to Women who have Bastards, and do refuse to discover the Father or Begetter of such Children, but that in such Case it shall be in the Discretion of the Justices, before whom such Woman or Women shall be convicted, either to take the fine by this Act appointed, or to award Corporal Punishment, any thing in this Act before, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bastard bearers not discovering the Father may be Whipt or Fined.

And for the ascertaining what Woman shall be accounted Lewd, *Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid*, That it shall and may be Lawful for the Minister, Vestry and Church-wardens of any Parish where there is a Minister, and for the Vestry and Church-wardens, where there is no Minister, before any Admonition by them, or any of them given, in pursuance of the Directions aforementioned, to give Notice or cause Notice to be given to any person or persons, by them, or the Major Part of them, Suspected of Lewdness or Incontinency, and being or residing within their respective Parishes, to appear before them, or the Major part of them, at such time and place, as they, or the Major part of them shall appoint, and on the appearance of such Person or Persons, to acquaint them of the Suspicion that is had of them, and to hear what Reasonable Excuse such Persons shall offer, why they ought not to be proceeded against, according to Law, as Fornicators or Adulterers, as the Case shall happen; and in Case the Person or Persons having such Notice given them, shall not appear, according to such Notice, on Affidavit of such Notice given, or appearing, do not excuse or acquit themselves of the Grounds, of such Suspicion, in such manner as such Minister, Vestry and Church-Wardens, as aforesaid, shall approve, that then it shall and may be lawful for such Minister, Vestry and Church-Wardens, or the major Part of them, as aforesaid, and they are hereby required to Admonish such Person or Persons, according to the directions afore-mentioned, which admonition, together with proof of the Co-habitation of the parties so admonished, or their frequenting the Company of each other, contrary to, and after such Admonition given, shall be sufficient Evidence in any Court of this Province to Convict the Persons so Cohabiting or frequenting each others Company, after Admonition given, as aforesaid, of Fornication or Adultery, as the Case shall happen, and Subject them to the Penalties aforementioned, any Law, Statute or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

How to know a Lewd Woman. by assistance of the Minister Vestry and Church-Wardens, and how they are to proceed.

And what Proof sufficient to convict them.

An Act for stay of Execution after the Tenth of May yearly.

WHEREAS many of the Inhabitants of this Province are and have been exceedingly grieved and burthened by Executions laid upon them in the Summer Time, when it is not possible for them to procure Effects for the Payment and Satisfaction of their Creditors, by means whereof they are often times kept in Prison a long time, and