

by Way of Execution, as aforesaid. This Act to endure for Three Years, and to the End of the next Session of Assembly after the End of the said Three Years.

Pass'd June 3d, 1715.



*Ch^o 73. An Act for the Speedy Tryal of Criminals, and Ascertain-
ing their Punishment, in the County-Courts, when Prosecuted
there; and for Payment of Fees due from Criminal Persons.*

WHEREAS many Acts of Assembly have been heretofore made against Thieving and Stealing, which, at this present, are not sufficient to prevent the Committing those Crimes, or to punish them when committed; Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the several Justices of the County-Courts of this Province, to hold Plea of, adjudge, and in lawful Manner determine all Thieving and Stealing of any Goods or Chattels whatsoever, not being above the Value of One thousand Pounds of Tobacco (Robbery, Burglary, and House-breaking excepted) and every Person or Persons, legally convicted of any such Thieving and Stealing, (except before excepted) by Testimony of One sufficient Evidence, not being the Party grieved, before any such County-Court, as aforesaid, shall and may cause to be punished, by paying Four-fold of the Value of the Goods so thieved or stolln, as aforesaid, and the stolln Goods return to the Party or Parties grieved thereby, and by putting into the Pillory, and whipping so many Stripes, as the Court, before whom such Matter is tried, shall adjudge; (not exceeding Forty) which Court shall always adjudge the Value of the Goods so thieved and stolln, as aforesaid; and if any such Person so convicted, have not sufficient Goods and Chattels, or be a Servant, whereby he is incapable to have Goods and Chattels to satisfy and pay the said Four-fold; in every such Case, such Person or Persons shall receive the Corporal Punishment, as aforesaid, and satisfy the Four-fold, and Fees of Conviction, by Servitude.

AND be it hereby Enacted and Declared by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That the Time of Service of a Free Person convicted, as aforesaid, not having Goods and Chattels, as aforesaid, shall commence from the Time of his Conviction, as aforesaid; and the Time of Service of a Servant convicted, as aforesaid, shall commence at the Expiration of such Time of Servitude, to which, at the Time of his Conviction, he stood bound; which Time of Servitude, for Satisfaction for the stolln Goods and Fees, accrued as aforesaid, shall be adjudged by such County-Court, either to the Party grieved, or any other Person the Court shall order such Convict to, that will then and there pay, or secure to be paid, the Four-fold, and Costs aforesaid, at the Discretion of the Court: And if any Person or Persons shall receive or take part of such stolln Goods, or assist the Person, so stealing, as aforesaid, to make away and conceal them, being legally convicted, as aforesaid, shall suffer the same Corporal Pains with the Party stealing, as aforesaid; any Law, Statute, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding. And if any Person or Persons have been once convicted of any such Thieving and Stealing, (except before excepted) and shall