

N<sup>o</sup> 22.

## Suppressing Blasphemy and Swearing.

Their Manner of Con-  
viction.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall, after the End of this present Sessions of Assembly, prophanely Swear or Curse in the Presence or Hearing of any Magistrate, the Commissary-General, the Secretary, Constables, Provincial or County Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, Minister, Vestryman or Churchwarden, or that shall be convicted of prophane Cursing or Swearing, by the Oath of one Witness, or by the Confession of the Party offending, before any Justice of the Peace, or other Magistrate, that then, for every such Offence the Party so offending shall forfeit and pay to the Use of the County where such Offence or Offences shall be committed, the respective Sums hereafter mentioned; that is to say, the first Oath or Curse, *Two Shillings and Sixpence*, and for every Oath or Curse after the first, *Five Shillings* current Money.

Their Temporal Pu-  
nishment by Fine.

III. And it is hereby further Enacted, That upon Neglect or Refusal of Payment of the said Forfeiture in Money, or Goods to the Value thereof, any Magistrate, the Commissary-General, Secretary, Provincial or County Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, Constable, or Minister of a Parish, any Vestryman or Churchwarden, shall and are hereby authorized and required to commit the said Offender to the Stocks for the space of one Hour, for every Oath, Curse, not exceeding three Hours at any one Time of Conviction or Punishment, or order him, her or them Punishment by Whipping, not exceeding *Five Lashes* for any one Oath or Curse, nor *Thirty-nine* at any one Time of Conviction or Punishment; and, if Occasion be, to call or command Assistance in the executing the same, in the same Manner as any Sheriff or Constable might or ought to do in other Cases of contemning his Majesty's Process or Authority. And in case such Punishment shall be awarded by any the Persons aforesaid, except the Sheriff or Constable aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such Person to appoint any proper Person (who shall not be in Authority, or have any just Exemption) as a Constable on such special Occasion, to execute such Punishment on the Offender, in case the Sheriff of the County, or Constable of the Hundred be absent from the Place where such Punishment shall be awarded; and that the Person so especially to be appointed or commanded to execute such Punishment, that shall refuse or delay to execute the same, shall forfeit to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, the Sum of *Ten Shillings* current Money, to the Use aforesaid, to be levied as the Justices of the County Court where such Contempt shall happen, shall order and direct: But in case the Offence of prophane Cursing or Swearing shall be committed by any Person or Persons under the Age of sixteen Years, whereof they shall be convicted, as aforesaid, who shall not forthwith pay the Forfeitures aforesaid, then he, she or they shall, by Warrant from any the Persons aforesaid, if such Offence be committed in their Presence, or from any Justice of the Peace, or other

Stocks.

Whipping.

The Magistrates Power  
to call Assistance;And especially appoint  
Constables:Who may not refuse  
on pain of Fine.

Swearing Youngsters,

to pay,