

N^o. 22.

Suppressing Blasphemy and Swearing.

Offenders to be prosecuted in ten Days.

VII. ~~Provided~~ always, and it is hereby Enacted, That no Person shall be prosecuted or troubled for any the Offences of Cursing or Swearing, as aforesaid, unless the same be proved or prosecuted within Ten Days next after such Offence committed.

The great use of Drunkenness prohibited by Fine,

or Stocks.

Magistrates have like Power to punish this, as Cursing and Swearing.

VIII. And whereas the loathsome and odious Sin of *Drunkenness* is of too common Use within this Province, being the Root and Foundation of many other enormous Sins, to the great Dishonour of God and the Country, the impoverishing of many good Subjects, and abusively wasting the good Creatures of God; Be it Enacted, That all and every Person or Persons, who after three Months next following the End of this present Sessions of Assembly; shall be drunk, and of the same Offence of Drunkenness shall be convicted, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of *Five Shillings*, current Money, for every such Offence; or on neglecting to make immediate Payment thereof by Money, or Goods to the Value, shall be set in the Stocks, there to remain for the space of two Hours, in lieu thereof: And that the several Magistrates, and others, aforementioned, to put this Act in Execution against such as shall be accused or convicted of prophane Cursing and Swearing, shall proceed in the same manner against such as shall be accused or convicted of *Drunkenness*, as they are herein before directed to proceed against those that shall be accused or convicted of prophane Cursing and Swearing, and shall in all things, relating to the Punishment of *Drunkenness*, have the same Powers, Authorities and Advantages, as are to them herein before given against prophane Cursers and Swearers, and shall be liable to the same Forfeitures, and to the same manner of Conviction, in case of *Drunkenness* in themselves, or omitting to punish it in others, as herein before directed in case of Cursing and Swearing. All which Forfeitures or Penalties relating to Drunkenness, shall be collected, levied or inflicted after the same manner, and applied to the same Uses as before directed in the Case of prophane Cursing and Swearing.

This Act to be read in Churches four Times a Year, on pain of 1000 Pounds of Tobacco.

IX. And be it further Enacted, That this Act shall be publicly read four Times in the Year, in all Parish Churches, and all Publick Chappels, by the Rector, Vicar, Curate or Reader of the respective Parishes or Chappels, immediately after Morning Prayer, on four several *Sundays*; that is to say, on some one *Sunday* in *June*, in *September*, in *December*, and in *March*, under the Pain of *One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco*, for every such Neglect or Omission; the one Half to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, towards defraying the Charge of such Parish where such Omission shall be made, the other to the Informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same, to be recovered in the County Court where the same shall rise, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information,