

An ACT for the Punishing the Offences of Adultery and Fornication.

BE it Enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governour, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That after the End of this Session of Assembly, whoever shall, directly or indirectly, entertain, provide for, or cause to be entertained or provided for, any lewd Woman or Women, or that shall frequent her or their Company, after that Admonition to him or them be given by the Minister, or the Vestry, or the Church-warden or Church-wardens of the Parish where such Persons shall inhabit, shall be adjudged a Fornicator or Adulterer as the Case shall be, and shall suffer such Penalties as by this Law is hereafter appointed.

If any Person entertain any lewd Woman, or frequent her Company after Admonition, he shall be deemed a Fornicator.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That every Person or Persons that shall commit Fornication, and be thereof convict in the Provincial or County-Court, either by Confession or Verdict of Twelve Men, shall be Fined Thirty Shillings, currant Money of this Province, or Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, by the Justices before whom such Conviction shall be, to the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for the Support of the County Charge.

Every Person that shall be convict of Fornication, shall be fined 30 s. or 600 l. of Tobacco.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That every Person or Persons that shall commit Adultery, and shall be thereof convict, either by Confession or Verdict of Twelve Men, in the Provincial, or any of the County-Courts of this Province, shall be Fined by the Justices before whom such Conviction shall be, Three Pounds currant Money, as aforesaid, or Twelve Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, towards defraying such County Charge as aforesaid.

Every Person convict of Adultery, to be fined 3 l. or 1200 l. of Tobacco.

And in Case the said Offenders or any of them, shall not have wherewith to pay the several Fines by this Act imposed, then the said Offender shall be adjudged to suffer corporal Punishment by Whipping upon his or their bare Bodies, till the Blood do appear, so 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 Women 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

How to know a lewd Woman, by Assistance of the Minister, Vestry and Church-wardens; and how they are to proceed.

Lewdness