

resisting or refusing to surrender, from undergoing a legal Trial; but it shall and may be lawful for such Person, upon trial, to give this and the above Act in Evidence, upon not guilty pleaded; and if it shall appear, upon the Evidence, that such killing as aforesaid was done in the lawful Execution and in Pursuance of the aforesaid Act, then such Person or Persons so killing as aforesaid, in Pursuance and in the lawful Execution of the said Act, shall be acquitted and discharged thereof, and from Penalties, Forfeitures and Punishments for such killing, as aforesaid.

WHERE any Person shall be prosecuted for killing a Slave resisting, as by the above Acts impowered, then and in such Cases, the publick shall pay such Person all his Costs and Charges he shall be at, by means of such Prosecution.

THIS and the above Act hereby explained are both continued for Three Years July 17, 1754. And for the like Space of Time September 28th, 1757.

Passed September 23d, 1723. } ACT to punish Blasphemers,
Swearers, Drunkards and Sabbath
Breakers.

IF any Person shall willingly, maliciously and advisedly, by writing or speaking, blaspheme or curse God, or deny our Saviour JESUS CHRIST to be the Son of God, or shall deny the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, or the Godhead of any of the three Persons, or the Unity of the Godhead, or shall utter any profane Words concerning the Holy Trinity, or any the Persons thereof, and be thereof convicted, by Verdict or Confession, he shall, for the first Offence, be bored thro' the Tongue and fined *Twenty Pounds* Sterling, to the Use of the County where the Offence was committed, to be levied on his Body, Goods, Chattels, Lands or Tenements; and in case the said Fine cannot be levied, suffer Six Months Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize. For the second Offence, the Offender being thereof convicted as aforesaid, shall be stigmatized by burning in the Forehead with the Letter B. and pay the same Fine of *Twenty Pounds* Sterling, to be levied and applied as aforesaid; and in case of Inability to pay, be imprisoned Twelve Months without Bail or Mainprize; and for the third Offence, shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

EVERY Person that shall profanely swear or curse in the Presence and Hearing of any Magistrate, Minister, the Commissary General, Secretary, Sheriff, Coroner, Provincial or County Clerk, Vestry Man, Church Warden or Constable, and be thereof convicted before any Magistrate, by the Oath of One lawful Witness or Confession of