

session of the party before any magistrate, and that all negroes and other slaves, belonging to the owner of the place where such assembly shall be, if required, shall aid and assist the constable in putting this act in execution, on pain of being whipped each of them with thirty-nine stripes on the bare back.

CHAPTER XV.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That every constable that shall be appointed to put this act in execution shall be allowed five hundred pounds of tobacco in the county levy; and if it shall so happen at any time, that any negro or other slave shall strike any white person, it shall and may be lawful upon proof made thereof, either by the oath of the party so struck, or otherwise, before any justice of the peace, for such justice to cause one of the negro's or other slave's ears so offending to be cropt.

Their allowance, &c.

V. AND BE IT LIKEWISE ENACTED, That the owner of any plantation or plantations, that shall at any time discover any strange negro or other slaves upon any of their plantations, unless they are sent by their owners on lawful occasions, and shall warn such negroes or other slaves to be gone home to their masters or owners, any negroes or other slaves refusing or delaying so to do, it shall and may be lawful for the owner of such plantation to correct such negro by whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes; and any person that shall wittingly encourage any negro or other slaves to meet in companies on their plantations, unless on lawful occasions, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence one thousand pounds of tobacco to the use aforesaid, to be recovered as aforesaid.

Persons may warn strange slaves, &c.

VI. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That any master or owner of any negro or other slaves, that shall suffer any such slaves to them belonging to keep any horses or mares, or to raise any cattle or hogs, as the proper right of such slaves, the master or owner of such slaves shall forfeit and pay five hundred pounds of tobacco, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid, and also all such horses and mares, cattle and hogs, shall likewise be forfeited, one half to the informer, the other half to be applied as aforesaid.

Slaves not to keep horses, &c.

VII. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority aforesaid, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid, That whereas many negroes and other slaves absent themselves from their masters service, and run out into the woods, and there remain killing and destroying of hogs and cattle belonging unto the people of this province, if that such negro or negroes, or other slaves so out-lying as aforesaid, shall refuse to surrender themselves, making resistance against such persons as pursue to apprehend and take them up, being thereunto legally empowered, it shall be lawful to and for such pursuers, upon such resistance made, to (a) shoot, kill and destroy such negro or negroes, or other slave as aforesaid.

Resisting, they may be shot, &c.

(a) By 1751, ch. 14, section 9, persons so killing any slave are indemnified from prosecution, the slave so killed is to be valued, and the value paid to the owner; and by 1753, ch. 26, persons so killing any slave shall undergo a trial, but on pleading the general issue, and acquittal thereon, the public shall pay the costs of the prosecution.

VIII. This act to be read at every county court by the sheriff, or his deputy, on pain of forfeiting five hundred pounds of tobacco for every omission, to the lord proprietor, one half to the use of the county where the omission shall happen, and the other half to the informer, to be recovered by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no essoin, protection or wager of law shall be allowed.

Sheriff to read this act.

CHAPTER XVI.

An ACT to punish blasphemers, swearers, drunkards and sabbath breakers, and for repealing the laws heretofore made for the punishing such offenders. Lib. LL. No. 4. fol. 598.

Passed 26th of October, 1723.

BE IT ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same, That if any person shall hereafter, within this province, wittingly, 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 shall be thereof convicted by verdict, or confession, shall, for the first offence, be bored through the tongue, and fined twenty pounds sterling to the lord proprietor, to be applied to the use of the county where the offence shall be committed, to be levied on the offender's body, goods and chattels, lands or tenements, and in case the said fine cannot be levied, the offender to suffer six months imprisonment without bail or mainprize; and that for the second offence, the of-

Blasphemers to be punished, &c.