

but forasmuch as such coins, both of gold and silver, do at this time pass current by weight, and not by tale, as heretofore, whereby the mischiefs of clipping are effectually prevented, and seeing that the cutting or clipping of foreign coins is now in some measure necessary for the making of change, this present general assembly, taking into their serious consideration the grievous penalties inflicted by the said act upon persons clipping foreign coins as aforesaid, have thought fit to repeal so much of the said act as related thereunto;

C H A P. II.

II. WHEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, 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the same, That that part of the said act that relates to clipping the coins therein mentioned, be and is hereby utterly repealed and made void.

Part of an act repealed.

C H A P. III.

A Supplementary act to the acts for regulating writs of error, and granting appeals from and to the courts of common law, within this province, and for regulating (a) appeals from the court of chancery. Lib. L. No. 5. fol. 257.

Passed 8th of August, 1729. 1713, ch. 4.

(a) See 1721, ch. 14, section 3.

This act, relating to appeals to the governor and council, has ceased to have any operation.

C H A P. IV.

An ACT for the more effectual punishing of negroes and other slaves, and for taking away the benefit of clergy from certain offenders. Lib. L. No. 5. fol. 258.

WHEREAS several petit treasons, and cruel and horrid murders, have been lately committed by negroes, which cruelties they were instigated to commit, and hereafter may be instigated to commit with the like inhumanity, because they have no sense of shame, or apprehension of future rewards or punishments; and that the manner of executing offenders, prescribed by the laws of England, is not sufficient to deter a people from committing the greatest cruelties, who only consider the rigour and severity of punishment;

Preamble.

II. BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, 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 when any negro, or other slave, shall be convicted, by confession, or verdict of a jury, of any petit treason or murder, or wilfully burning of dwelling-houses, it shall and may be lawful for the justices before whom such conviction shall be, to give judgment against such negro, or other slave, to have the right hand cut off, to be hanged in the usual manner, the head severed from the body, the body divided into four quarters, and head and quarters set up in the most public places of the county where such fact was committed.

Punishment on slaves for petit treason, &c.

III. AND, whereas several felons have feloniously broke and entered several shops, store-houses or warehouses, not contiguous to or used with any mansion-house, and stolen from thence several goods and merchandises, and that it hath been doubted whether such offenders are, by any law now in force, excluded the benefit of clergy; BE IT ENACTED AND DECLARED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall, after the end of this session of assembly, break into any shop, store-house or warehouse, although such shop, store-house or warehouse, be not contiguous to or used with any mansion-house, and steal from thence any goods, to the value of five shillings, and be thereof convicted, by confession, or verdict of a jury, such offender or offenders shall suffer death as felons, without benefit of clergy, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And for breaking into any shop, &c.

C H A P. V.

An ACT reviving and continuing an act, entitled, (b) An act ascertaining the gauge and tare of tobacco hogheads, and to prevent cropping, cutting and defacing tobacco taken on board ships and vessels upon freight, and for laying impositions on tobacco per the hoghead for the support of government, and for the encouraging settlements in this province, by ascertaining the manner of paying his lordship's alienation fines and quit-rents for the term therein proposed, and for taking off the three-pence per hoghead formerly raised for the public charge. Lib. L. No. 5. fol. 260.

(b) 1717, ch. 7, hereby continued to 29th September, 1730.

C H A P. VI.

An ACT for the laying out of land and erecting a town at the head of Port-Tobacco creek, in Charles county. Lib. L. No. 5. fol. 262.

N. B. By