

A Supplementary ACT to the Act, intituled, An Act for the more effectual Punishment of Negros, and other Slaves; and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders: And to an Act, intitled, An Act to prevent the tumultuous Meeting and other Irregularities of Negros; and other Slaves; and directing the Manner of trying of Slaves.

WHEREAS, the Laws in Force, for the Punishment of Slaves, are found insufficient, to prevent their committing very great Crimes and Disorders; and that a further Provision is necessary, to keep them in proper Bounds and due Order: And for a more speedy Method to bring them to Justice, than is prescribed by the Laws heretofore made:

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 if any Slave or Slaves shall, at any Time after the Publication of this Act, consult, advise, or conspire to rebel, or raise any Insurrection within this Province; or to murder or poison any Person or Persons whatsoever; or to commit a Rape upon any White Woman; or to burn any House or Houses, and be thereof convict, by Confession or Verdict, shall suffer Death, as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any Slave, who shall attempt to burn any Dwelling-house, or Out-house contiguous to, or used with any Dwelling-house, or any other House, wherein there shall be any Person or Persons, or any Goods, Merchandizes, Tobacco, Indian Corn, or other Grain, or Fodder, and shall be thereof convict, as aforesaid, shall suffer Death, as a Felon, without Benefit of Clergy.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That every Slave committing any of the Felonies herein before-mentioned, or any other Offence, which may by Law subject such Slave to the Pains of Death, shall be committed to the Sheriff of the County where the Offence shall be committed; and that at the next Assizes, or County Court which shall first happen to be held, for the County where the Offence shall be committed, the Justices of Assize, or either of them, or County Court which shall first happen, shall and may, by Virtue of this Act, try every such Offender or Offenders, according to Law; and upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders, upon his, her, or their voluntary Confession, or the Verdict of a Jury, upon the Testimony of one or more legal and credible Witnesses or Witnesses; or even the Testimony or Evidence of other Slaves, corroborated with such pregnant Circumstances, as shall convince and satisfy the Jury, who shall try the Fact, of the Guilt of such Slave or Slaves, to give Judgment according to the Nature and Quality of the Offence.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any Slave or Slaves, who shall give any false Testimony against any Slave or Slaves who shall be prosecuted, as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convict, shall have one Ear cut off, on the Day of his or her Conviction, and receive Thirty Nine