

*An ACT to prohibit the Exportation of Grain, Bread, and Flour.*

**W**HEREAS, the great Drought which has happened this present Year, will, in all Probability, occasion a Scarcity of Grain within this Province, whereby the Inhabitants thereof, especially the poorer Sort, are in Danger of being reduced to Want and Misery, unless the most speedy and effectual Methods be taken to prevent the Exportation of Grain, Bread, and Flour: And whereas, his Excellency the Governor, in order, as much as in him lay, to prevent so great a Calamity to the People as the Want of Bread, on the Third Day of this Instant *August*, with the Advice of His Lordship's Honourable Council, issued his Proclamation to prohibit the Exportation of any Indian Corn, Wheat, or other Grain, until the Fifteenth Instant; and gave Direction to publish the same, with the utmost Expedition, as the best Expedient that could have been used on so pressing an Occasion, until the Legislature could make a more effectual Provision therein; which was the more necessary, because the Scarcity of Grain in Foreign Parts would have been an Inducement to Purchasers to have given great Rates to such as would spare any; and a great Price would probably have tempted People to have disposed of as much as they could, tho' with the manifest Hazard of the Welfare of the Inhabitants of this Province. For Prevention whereof:

*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 any Master or Commander of any Ship or Vessel, or any other Person or Persons who has or have taken or laden any Wheat, Indian Corn, or other Grain, Meal, Flour, or Bread, on board of any Ship or other Vessel, with Intent to export the same out of this Province, since the Publication of the said Proclamation; and who shall not, within Twenty Days after the Publication of this Act, land the same, shall forfeit such Wheat, Indian Corn, or other Grain, Meal, Flour, or Bread, together with the full Value thereof: One Half to the Lord Proprietary; the other Half to the Informer, who will sue for the same: To be recovered, by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint, or Information; wherein no Escoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, shall be allowed.

*AND BE IT ENACTED*, That no Wheat, Indian Corn, or other Grain, or Meal, Flour, or Bread, belonging to any of the Inhabitants of this Province, which was laden on Board of any Ship or Vessel, before the issuing of the said Proclamation, shall be exported or conveyed out of this Province; And that any such Inhabitant, after the Publication of this Act, who shall export, or cause or suffer to be exported or conveyed; or who shall sell, barter, or otherwise dispose of, or cause to be bartered, sold, or otherwise disposed of, any such Wheat, Indian Corn, or other Grain, or Meal, Flour, or Bread; or who shall take or purchase the same, with Intent to export such Wheat, Indian Corn, Meal, Flour, or Bread, out of this Province, shall forfeit and pay Treble the Value thereof: To be recovered, as aforesaid, to the Uses aforesaid. And to the End, that the Quantity of Grain, Meal, Flour, or Bread, so laden and taken on board of any Ship or Vessel, after the issuing of the Proclamation aforesaid, may be known: