

County within this Province, and they are hereby required, not to Pay the said *Jonas Green* the said Fifteen Pounds to to be Levied for his Use aforesaid, unless it shall be made appear to them, that the Laws of the present and future Assemblies, shall be Printed or Delivered in the manner before directed, within the Space of Four Months next after the Conclusion of each Assembly; any Thing herein before contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

This Act to continue until the Twenty-fifth Day of *December*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-five, and no longer.

Continues
of this Act.

An Act to prevent cutting up Tobacco Plants, destroying of Tobacco and Tobacco-Houses, and for ascertaining the Punishment of Criminals guilty of the said Offences.

WHEREAS, Tobacco is the Staple of this Province, and that thereon depends the Livelyhood of many of the Inhabitants, as well as the most considerable Branch of Trade; and that it is as requisite that the Property of the People should be as well secured in the Fields or open Houses, as in their Dwelling-Houses; it is therefore prayed that it may be Enacted,

Preamble:

And 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 any Person or Persons who shall, after the End of this present Session of Assembly, cut or destroy, or cause to be cut up or destroyed, any Tobacco Plants belonging to any other Person or Persons, or by Threats, Menaces, or other sinister Means, shall cause or excite any Person or Persons to cut up or destroy any Tobacco or Tobacco Plants, belonging to any other Person or Persons, and shall be thereof convicted by due Course of Law, shall forfeit and pay unto the Party grieved, One Hundred Pounds Sterling, and suffer Six Months Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize, and shall also remain in Prison, as in Execution, until the said Sum be satisfied, in case the Offender be of sufficient Ability to pay the same; and if the Offender shall not be of sufficient Ability, then and in every such Case, the Offender shall remain and continue in Prison for the Space of one whole Year, without Bail or Mainprize. *Provided also,* That the Party grieved, shall and may have and maintain his or her Action of Tretpais, or other proper Action at Law, for Recovery of Damages against the Offender; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Penalty on
such as cut
up Tobacco
Plants, de-
stroy Tobacco
co, &c.

And be it further Enacted, That any Person or Persons, who shall after the End of this Session of Assembly, willfully burn any Tobacco belonging to any other Person, whether hanging, or in Bulk, or packed, or any Tobacco-House or Houses, having therein any Tobacco hanging, or in Bulk, or packed, and be thereof convicted by due Course of Law, and every Aider and Abettor of such Offender, shall suffer Death as a Felon without Benefit of Clergy.

Burners of
Tobacco, or
Tobacco-
Houses, to
suffer Death.