

her conscientious persuasion or practice; nor shall he or she, at any time, be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or minister whatsoever, contrary to his or her mind, but shall freely and fully enjoy his or her Christian liberty in that respect, without any interruption or reflection. And if any person shall abuse or deride any other for his or her different persuasion and practice in matter of religion, such person shall be looked upon as a disturber of the peace and be punished accordingly.

But to the end that looseness, irreligion and atheism may not creep in under pretense of conscience, in this province and territories thereof:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That according to the example of the primitive Christians, and for the ease of the creation, every First day of the week, called the Lord's Day, people shall abstain from their usual and common toil and labor, that whether masters, parents, children or servants, they may the better dispose themselves to read the scriptures of truth at home, or frequent such meetings of religious worship abroad, as may best suit their respective persuasions, under the penalty of twenty shillings for every such offense, for the use of the poor of the county where such offense shall be committed.

Passed, November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Acts of Assembly passed October 28, 1701, Chapter 105, and January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 115.

CHAPTER II.

AN ACT AGAINST RIOTS, RIOTERS AND RIOTOUS SPORTS, PLAYS AND GAMES.

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and Territories thereunto belonging, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if any persons, to the number of three or upwards, meet together with clubs,

staves or any other hurtful weapons, to the terror of any the peaceable people or inhabitants of this province or territories, and shall commit or design to commit violence or injury upon the person or goods of any the said inhabitants, and be convicted thereof, they and every of them shall be reputed and punished as rioters, and the act of terror or violence, or design of violence, shall be accounted and deemed a riot. And whosoever shall introduce into this province and territories any rude or riotous sports, as prizes, stage-plays, masks, revels, bull-baitings, cock-fightings, bonfires, with such like, or shall practice the same, and be lawfully convict thereof, such person or persons shall, for every such offense, be reputed as breakers of the peace, and shall forfeit and pay twenty shillings, or suffer ten days' imprisonment at hard labor in the House of Correction.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, within this province and territories, shall be convict of playing at cards, dice, lotteries or such like enticing, vain and evil sports and games, all and every such person or persons, for every such offense, shall pay five shillings, or suffer five days' imprisonment in the House of Correction at hard labor as aforesaid.

Passed, November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II; and the Acts of Assembly, passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapters 127 and 128, and I Votes, 50.

CHAPTER III.

AN ACT AGAINST ADULTERY, FORNICATION, &c.

For the preservation of virtue, chastity and purity among the inhabitants of this province and territories, and for the prevention of the heinous sins of adultery and fornication:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and Territories, in General Assembly met, and by the authority