

charged by the woman to be the father, she holding constant in her charge, shall be the reputed father (although no person be accused by her in the time of her travail), unless the circumstances of the case and place be such, on behalf of the man charged, as that the court that hath cognizance thereof shall see reason to acquit him, and otherwise dispose of the child and education thereof. And every man being legally convicted to be the reputed father of a bastard child as aforesaid, shall give security to the court to take the care and be at the charge of bringing up the same, by such assistance of the mother as nature requires, and such further assistance as the court from time to time shall see cause to order.

Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 122.

CHAPTER IV.

AN ACT AGAINST RAPE OR RAVISHMENT.

[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 of the same, That whosoever shall commit a rape, or ravish any maid or woman, within this province or territories, being convicted thereof, shall, for the first offense, be publicly whipped with thirty-one lashes on his bare back, well laid on, and shall suffer seven years' imprisonment at hard labor. And if he be an unmarried person he shall forfeit all his estate; and if married, one-third part thereof, one-half of such forfeiture to the proprietary and governor and the other half to the use of the poor. And for the second offense, he shall suffer castration and be branded with the letter R in his forehead.

Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 120.