

and Territories, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That whosoever shall violently or forcibly enter in to the house or possessions of any other person within this province or territories, being duly convicted thereof, shall be punished as a breaker of the peace, and make such satisfaction to the party aggrieved as the circumstances of the fact will bear.

Passed November 27, 1700; allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter, having been considered by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6, and not acted upon. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly passed March 1, 1799, Chapter 2023.

CHAPTER XII.

AN ACT AGAINST MENACING AND ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and counties annexed in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That whosoever shall assault or menace his or her parent, and be duly convicted thereof, shall suffer six months' imprisonment at hard labor, and be publicly whipped with thirty-one lashes on his or her bare back, well laid on. And whosoever shall assault or manace a magistrate, and be convict thereof, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding five pounds. And if any servant shall assault or menace his or her master or mistress, and be convict thereof, he or she shall be imprisoned six months, and at the expiration of their time shall make such satisfaction for the master's or mistress' loss of the said six months, as two justices of the peace shall appoint. And if any person or persons shall write or speak slightly, or carry themselves abusively against any magistrate or person in office, being duly convicted thereof, such person, for every such offense, shall be fined according to the quality of the magistrate or officer and nature of the offense: Provided, It be not less than five nor more than fifty shillings. And if any person be

convict of committing an assault or battery on the person of another, such person shall be reputed a breaker of the peace, and shall be punished according to the nature and circumstances of the fact.

Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, Paragraph 54.

CHAPTER XIII.

AN ACT AGAINST MURDER.

[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 if any person within this province or territories thereof, shall willfully or premeditatedly kill another person, or willfully or premeditatedly be the cause of, or accessory to, the death of any person, such person guilty as aforesaid shall suffer death, and one-half of his, the said criminal's estate shall remain to his wife and children; and in case he leave no wife nor children then to the next of his kindred, not descending lower than the second degree, to be claimed within three years after the criminal's death, and the other half of his estate shall be forfeited to the proprietary and governor and his heirs.

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 116.

CHAPTER XIV.

AN ACT AGAINST SEDITION, SPREADING FALSE NEWS AND DEFAMATION.

For the coercion of evil-minded persons that, by seditious words or practices, may endeavor to disturb the public peace and quiet of this government: