

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Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6.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Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6.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: