

The 194th Law, Against witnesses refusing to give evidence being Summoned.

The 198th Law, About the Dike of New Castle

The 199th Law, Against Rangers

The 200d Law, about determining Debts under forty shillings

The 201st Law, About the Registry kept by Religious Societies

The 203d Law, Concerning the Surveyor Generals fees

All which said Laws & Chapters & every part thereof, We humbly desire, that you will be pleased to cause thy officers & ministers to Observe and put in due execution, as they tender the Honour of God, the Kings Commands, the prosperity of this government, and the Rights and Liberties of the free people thereof which Said Laws & Chapters hereafter follow in these words . . . That is to say:

CHAPTER 1.

[1] THE LAW CONCERNING LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

Almighty God being only Lord of Conscience, Father of Lights and Spirits and the Author as well as Object of all divine knowledge faith & worship, who only can enlighten the minds & perswade & convince the understanding of people In Due Reverence to his Sovereignty over the Souls of Mankind.

Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no person, now or at any time hereafter living in this Province, (who shall confess & acknowledge one Almighty God to be the Creator Up-holder & Ruler of the world, & that professeth him or herself obliged in Conscience to live peaceably & quietly under the civil Government) shall, in any case be molested or prejudiced for his or her conscientious perswasion or practice, Nor shall he or she at any time be compelled to frequent or maintain any Religious worship place or Ministry whatsoever contrary to his or her mind but shall freely & 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 perswasion & practice in matter of Religion, such person shall be lookt upon as a disturber of the Peace & be punished accordingly.

But to the end that Looseness Irreligion & Aethism may not creep in under pretence of Conscience in this province, Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That according to the Example of the primitive Christians, & for the ease of the creation, every first day of the week called, The Lords Day, people shall abstain from their usuall & common toill & Labour, 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 Perswasions.

Great Law, chapter 1. See Vol. II St.L. 3, ch. I.

CHAPTER 2.

[2] THE LAW CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that all Officers & persons commissionated & Employed in the Service of the Government of this province and all members and Deputies elected to serve in Assembly thereof & all that have Right to elect such deputies, shall be such as profess & declare they believe in Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, the Saviour of the world & that are not Convicted of ill Fame or unsober & dishonest Conversation & that are of 21 years of age at least.

Great Law, chapter 2. Replaced by chapter 141, 1699.

CHAPTER 3.

[3] THE LAWS AGAINST SWEARING.

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That whosoever shall Swear in their common conversation by the Name of God or Christ or Jesus, being Legally convicted thereof, shall pay for every such Offence 5 shillings or suffer 5 days Imprisonment in the house of Correction at hard Labour to the behoof of the publick, & be fedd with Bread & water only during that Time.