

every such offence be fined, according to the nature and circumstance of the Fact, Provided it be not less than 20 shillings.

Great Law, chapter 28. See Vol. II St.L. 14, ch. XIV.

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CHAPTER 21.

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[21] THE LAW AGAINST SPREADERS OF FALSE NEWS.

Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all Scandalous & malicious Reporters, Defamers & Spreaders of false News whether against Magistrates or privat persons, being Legally convicted thereof, shall be accordingly severely punisht as Enemies to the Peace and Concord of the Province.

Great Law, chapter 30. See Vol. II St.L. 14, ch. XIV.

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CHAPTER 22.

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[22] THE LAWS AGAINST SCOLDING.

Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall be Clamouros & Scolding & Railing with their Tongues, upon Complaint & full proof thereof before a Justice of the peace, The said Justice of the peace shall for every such offence Committ such person to the house of Correction, there to remain 3 days at hard Labour

To the end that the exorbitancie of the tongue may be bridled & rebuked, Be it further Enacted, That every person convicted before any Court or Magistrate for Railing or Scolding, shall stand one whole hour in the most publick place where such offence was Committed with a Gagg in his Mouth, or pay five shillings.

Great Law, chapter 31; chapter 121, 1683. See Vol. II St.L. 85, ch. LXVIII.