

THE STATUTES AT LARGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

At a General Assembly begun and holden at Newcastle, the fourteenth day of October, and continued by adjournment until the twenty-seventh day of November, A. D. 1700, the following acts were passed:

CHAPTER I.

THE LAW CONCERNING LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

Almighty God, being the only Lord of Conscience, Father of Lights and Spirits and the author as well as Object of all divine knowledge, faith and worship, who only can enlighten the minds and persuade and convince the understandings of people; in due reverence to His sovereignty over the souls of mankind:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by William Penn, Proprietary and Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania and the Territories thereunto belonging, by and with the advice and consent of the freeman thereof in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person, now or at any time hereafter, living in this province or territories, who shall confess and acknowledge one Almighty God to be the Creator, Upholder and Ruler of the world, and that professeth him or herself obliged in conscience to live peaceably and quietly under the civil government, shall in any case be molested or prejudiced for his or

NOTE.—All of this act before the last two words of Section I, "punished accordingly," is missing in the rolls. This portion has been supplied from Act Book A, Vol. I.

her conscientious persuasion or practice; nor shall he or she, at any time, be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or minister whatsoever, contrary to his or her mind, but shall freely and 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 persuasion and practice in matter of religion, such person shall be looked upon as a disturber of the peace and be punished accordingly.

But to the end that looseness, irreligion and atheism may not creep in under pretense of conscience, in this province and territories thereof:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That according to the example of the primitive Christians, and for the ease of the creation, every First day of the week, called the Lord's Day, people shall abstain from their usual and common toil and labor, 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 persuasions, under the penalty of twenty shillings for every such offense, for the use of the poor of the county where such offense shall be committed.

Passed, November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Acts of Assembly passed October 28, 1701, Chapter 105, and January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 115.

CHAPTER II.

AN ACT AGAINST RIOTS, RIOTERS AND RIOTOUS SPORTS, PLAYS AND GAMES.

[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 thereunto belonging, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if any persons, to the number of three or upwards, meet together with clubs,