

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Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6.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Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6.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

[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 shall speak, act or write anything tending to sedition or disaffection to this government, or disturbance of the peace thereof, or shall maliciously report and spread abroad false news, tending thereto, such person shall be fined, at the discretion of the justices of the respective county court, not less than five pounds, or three months' imprisonment at hard labor in the House of Correction. And whosoever shall by word or writing unjustly defame any person whatsoever, being duly convicted thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than twenty shillings, or shall be otherwise punished by ten days' imprisonment, at the discretion of the justices of the county court.

Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6.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

CHAPTER XV.

AN ACT AGAINST REMOVING LANDMARKS.

For the greater security and certainty of the boundaries of land:

[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 no person in this province or counties annexed, shall cut, fell, alter or remove any certain bounded tree or other allowed landmark, to the wrong of his neighbor or any other person, under the penalty of any sum not less than ten pounds.

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.