

CHAPTER CXVI.

AN ACT AGAINST MURDER AND MANSLAUGHTER.

[Section I.] Be it enacted by John Evans, Esquire, by the Queen's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if any person within this province shall willfully and premeditatedly kill another person or willfully and 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 extending lower than the second degree, to be claimed within three years after the criminal's death [sic]; and the other half of his estate shall be forfeited to the proprietary and governor for the support of government and the contingent charges thereof. And if any person shall be legally convicted of manslaughter, he or she shall forfeit his or her whole personal estate, one-half to the proprietary and governor for the support of government and the contingent charges thereof, and the other half to the relict and next of kin to the party deceased; and shall suffer imprisonment one whole year at hard labor. And whosoever shall be convicted of chance medley or other homicide by misadventure, he or she shall suffer the loss of one-half of his or her goods and chattels, one moiety to the proprietary and governor for the support of government, and the other to the relict or next of kin to the party deceased; and for want of such estate shall pay twenty pounds to the use aforesaid, and shall suffer one year's imprisonment at hard labor.

Passed January 12, 1705-6. Allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter, having been considered by the Queen in Council, October 24, 1709, and not acted upon. See Appendix II, Section III, and the Act of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 236 and the note thereto.