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And forasmuch as it hath happened, that the first in Commission of the said Council, thro' Sickness, or other Means, could not attend the Court of Appeals, by reason whereof, some Inconveniencies and Delays to Business have been,

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That in Case the Governour, and first in Commission of His Lordship's Council, be absent from the Court of Appeals, the Senior Councillor then present in Court, shall preside; and the said Court shall and may hear and determine any Matter before them, whether in Law or Equity, in the same Manner they might by the said Acts have done, in Case the Governour, or first in Commission, was actually present: And that the Judgment of those who shall be present, shall be as effectual, as if it were given by the Governour, or first nominated in His Lordship's Commission: Provided, there be Five Members of the said Court present.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That Appeals from the Court of Chancery, to the Court of Appeals, shall be subject to the same Regulation and Limitation, as to the Prosecution of them, as Appeals from the Courts of Common Law are: Any Law, Statute, Usage, or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Chap. IV An Act for the more effectual Punishing of Negroes, and other Slaves; and for taking away the benefit of Clergy from certain offenders.

Whereas several petit Treasons, and cruel and horrid Murders, have been lately committed by negroes which Cruelties they were instigated to commit, and hereafter may be instigated to commit with the like Inhumanity, because they have no Sense of shame or Apprehension of future Rewards or Punishments: And that the Manner of executing Offenders, prescrib'd by the Laws of England, is not sufficient to deter a People from committing the greatest Cruelties, who only consider the Rigour and Severity of Punishment:

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That when any Negroe, or other Slave, shall be convict, by Confession or Verdict of a Jury, of any Petit-Treason, or Murder, or wilfully burning of Dwelling-Houses; it shall and may be lawful for the Justices before whom such Conviction shall be, to give Judgment against such Negroe, or other Slave, to have the right Hand cut off, to be hang'd in the usual Manner, the Head severed from the Body, the Body divided into Four Quarters, and