

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted, by the authority, advice, and consent aforesaid,* That any master or owner of any negro or other slaves, that shall suffer any such slaves to them belonging, to keep any horses or mares, or to raise any cattle or hogs, as the proper right of such slaves, the master or owner of such slaves shall forfeit and pay five hundred pounds of tobacco, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid, and also all such horses and mares, cattle and hogs, shall likewise be forfeited, one-half to the informer, the other half to be applied as aforesaid.

Slaves not to keep horses, &c.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid,* That, whereas many negroes and other slaves absent themselves from their master's service, and run out into the woods, and there remain, killing and destroying of hogs and cattle belonging unto the people of this province, if that such negro or negroes, or other slaves so out-lying as aforesaid, shall refuse to surrender themselves, making resistance against such persons as pursue to apprehend and take them up, being thereunto legally empowered, it shall be lawful to and for such pursuers, upon such resistance made, to shoot, kill, and destroy such negro or negroes, or other slave as aforesaid.

Resisting, they may be shot, &c.

By 1751, ch. 14, sec. 9, persons so killing any slave are indemnified from prosecution; the slave so killed is to be valued, and the value paid to the owner; and by 1753, ch. 26, persons so killing any slave shall undergo a trial, but on pleading the general issue, and acquittal thereon, the public shall pay the costs of the prosecution.

## CHAPTER 16.

AN ACT to punish Blasphemers, Swearers, Drunkards, and Sabbath-breakers, and for repealing the laws heretofore made for the punishing such offenders.

*Be it enacted by the right honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That if any person shall hereafter, within this province, wittingly, maliciously, and advisedly, by writing or speaking, blaspheme or curse God, or deny our Saviour Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, or shall deny the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, or the Godhead of any of the three Persons, or the unity of the Godhead, or shall utter any profane words concerning the Holy Trinity, or any the Persons thereof, and shall be thereof convicted by verdict or confession, shall, for the first offence, be bored through the tongue, and fined twenty pounds sterling to the lord proprietor, to be applied to the use of the county where the offence shall be committed, to be levied on the offender's body, goods and chattels, lands or tenements; and, in case the said fine cannot be levied, the offender to suffer six months' imprisonment, without

Blasphemers to be punished, &c.