

oath of fidelity and support to this state, shall take, repeat and subscribe, the same oath, or if a quaker, menonist or dunker, shall solemnly, sincerely and truly, declare and affirm thereto in the words thereof.

C H A P.
XX.

XVI. **And be it enacted,** That if any person shall travel into or pass through or from this state to any other, without a pass or safe conduct, signed by some member of congress, or by the governor, or some judge or justice of this state, or of the state of which he is a subject or resident, he shall be liable to be apprehended and carried before some judge or justice for examination, who may commit him to the public gaol, if an offender against the laws, or dangerous person to this state, or to the United States, or any of them, there to remain till discharged by due course of law, and if not an offender or dangerous as aforesaid, the said judge or justice may discharge him and give him a pass.

Persons not to travel without a pass.

XVII. WHEREAS several persons, late inhabitants of this state, have, since the fourteenth day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, deserted the defence of this country in the present just and necessary war, **Be it enacted,** That no person whatsoever, who hath deserted as aforesaid, or any person who since the said time hath left this state without leave, shall at any time hereafter (unless he returns to this state within twelve months, and during the present war, and takes and subscribes the oath of fidelity aforesaid within ten days after his return) be capable of holding any office of trust or profit within this state; nor shall any person, now a resident of this state, who hath refused or neglected to subscribe the association, and shall not take the said oath of fidelity on or before the first day of August next, be capable of holding any office as aforesaid.

Penalty on persons who have deserted this state, &c.

XVIII. **Provided always,** That nothing herein contained shall extend to such persons who from religious principles have not subscribed or shall not subscribe the association.

Provido.

XIX. **And be it enacted,** That this act shall be publicly read by the clerk of the general court, and by the clerk of every county court in this state, at their next court respectively, immediately after empannelling the grand jury, and also by every minister, teacher or preacher of the gospel, immediately after divine service, at every church, chapel or meeting-house, where they officiate, on some Sunday in the month of May next; and every clerk, minister, teacher or preacher, failing so to do, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds, to be recovered with costs by the informer before any justice of the peace of the county where the offence shall be committed.

This act to be publicly read, &c.

XX. **And be it enacted,** That the general and county courts within this state shall, at all and every of their courts, give this act in charge to the grand juries of their respective courts.

And given in charge to grand juries.

At a convention which begun on the 21st of June, 1776, was entered into on the 4th of July, 1776, the following resolutions, which have never been repealed.

RESOLVED, That if any inhabitant of this colony shall, after the fifth day of August next, within or without this colony, or any person whatever, being an inhabitant of any other of the United Colonies, shall, within this colony, after the said fifth day of August next, levy war against the United Colonies, or any of them, or shall adhere to any person or persons bearing arms or employed in the service of Great-Britain against the United Colonies, or any of them; or shall afford such persons, or any of them, any aid or comfort, or shall give them, or any of them, or any subject of Great-Britain, any intelligence of the warlike preparations or designs of the United Colonies, or any of them; such person, on conviction thereof by a petit jury, after a presentment by a grand jury, in a court to be erected in this colony by the next convention for the trial of such offenders, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and forfeit all the estate which he had at the time of the commission of the crime, to be applied to the use of this colony, unless such convicted person shall be pardoned by the person or persons invested with the power of granting pardons for such offences.

RESOLVED, That the several offences aforesaid shall receive the same constructions that have been given by the judges in England to such of the said offences as are enumerated in the statute of Edward the 3d, commonly called the statute of treasons.

RESOLVED, That if any inhabitant of this colony shall, after the fifth day of August next, within or without this colony, or any person whatsoever shall, within this colony, after the said fifth day of August next, forge or counterfeit any of the bills of credit issued by the congress, by the assembly, or convention of any of the United colonies, or by any of the conventions of this colony, or alter the sum expressed in any of the said bills of credit, or shall offer, or cause to be offered, in payment, any such counterfeit, forged, or altered bill of credit, knowing the same to be counterfeit, forged or altered, and shall be thereof