



THE GENERAL LAWS

And

LIBERTIES of
CONNECTICUT COLONIE:

Revised and Published by Order of the
GENERAL COURT

Held at Hartford, in October 1672.

FOrasmuch as the free Fruition of such Liberties, as Humanity, Civility and Christianity call for, as due to every man, in his place and proportion, without Impeachment and Infringement hath ever been, and ever will be the Tranquility and Stability of Churches and Common wealths; and the denial or deprivation thereof, the disturbance, if not ruine of both.

It is therefore Ordered by this Court and the Authority thereof; That no mans life shall be taken away, no mans honour or good Name, shall be stayned, no mans person shall be Arrested, Restrained, Banished, Dismembred, nor any wayes punished; no man shall be deprived of his Wife or Children; no mans Goods or Estate shall be taken away from him, nor any wayes indamaged under colour of Law, or countenance of Authority, unless it be by the vertue or equity of some expresse Law of this Colony warranting the same, established by the General Court, and sufficiently published; or in case of the defects of a Law in any particular case by some clear and plain Rule of the word of God, in which the whole Court shall concur.

The Subjects
Priviledg that
his person and e-
state is secured
to him according
to Law.

A B I L I T Y.

Ability to dispose of estates

Condemned persons estates to be disposed of by the Court, &c.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That all persons of the age of *Twenty one* years, and of right understanding and memory, whether communicated or other, shall have full power and liberty to make their Wills and Testaments; and other lawful Alienations of their Lands and Estates; alwayes provided, that such persons who are condemned to Death, the disposal of their Estates, after the charges of their Prosecution and Imprisonment is answered, shall be left to the Court to be disposed according to Rules of Righteousness and Equity.

A C T I O N S.

Five days warning to answer any Action

Plaintiffs not appearing to prosecute when called 3 times to be non suited &c

Liberty of process at adjourned Courts

Plaintiffs liberty to withdraw or Non-suit himself &c

Actions charge what

Upon non-payment of cost of Court, the Court may refuse to hear the case

TO prevent inconveniences, and that those who shall be called to make answer in such suits as shall be Commenced against them (in any the Civil Courts of Judicature in this Colony) may have due time to prepare themselves for their Answer;

It is therefore Ordered by this Court and the Authority thereof; That from henceforth no person shall be requireable to appear in any Court, to make Answer to any Action of Debt, Trespas, Defamation, Slaunder, Accompt, or of the Case, except the Summons have been served upon him at least five dayes before the Court.

It is also Ordered; That if any person who hath entred an Action to be tryed in any of our Courts, be called three times (after the first half dayes sitting of the Court) and not appear by himself or his Attorney to prosecute his Action, he may be Non-suited, and pay all costs and charges, as if his Action had been prosecuted in the said Court.

And it is Ordered; That there shall be free liberty of Process granted in all Civil Actions according to Law, at any Adjourned County Court, as well as at the set County Courts.

It is further Ordered by this Court; that in all actions brought to any Court, the Plaintiffe shall have liberty to withdraw his Action, or to Non-suit himself before the Jury have given in their Verdict, in which case he shall alwayes pay full costs and charges to the Defendant, and may afterward renew his suit at another Court, the former Non-suit being first Recorded.

It is also Ordered; That for all such Actions as shall be tryed by a Jury in any of our Courts, there shall be paid by the Plaintiffe *Twelve shillings*, *six shillings* to the Treasury and *six shillings* to the Jury. And for all such Actions as shall be tried by the Bench, there shall be paid by the Plaintiffe *two shillings* to the Treasury, besides the Secretary or Clarks fees.

It is further Ordered; That if any person Commence an action in any of our Courts, either for the Bench or Jury, and do not pay down the charges thereof according to Order, both to the *Treasury*, *Secretary*, *Recorder* and *Jury* in good and currant Country pay, to the Courts satisfaction, it shall be in the power of the Court to refuse to hear such Actions.

A D U L T E R Y.

Adultery how punished

IT is Ordered By this Court and the Authority thereof; That whosoever shall commit Adultery with a Married Woman, or one betrothed to another

man, both of them shall be severely punished by whipping on the naked Body, and Stigmatized or Burnt on the Forehead with the Letter A. on a hot Iron, and he or she shall wear a Halter about his or her neck on the outside of their Garments, during his or her abode in this Colony, so as it may be visible; and as often as he or she shall be found without their Halters worn as aforesaid, they shall upon information and proof of the same made before any Assistant or Commissioner, be by them ordered to be whipt.

Adventurers in Discovering Commodities of publick Concernment.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That if any person or persons shall set themselves on work to discover any Commodities, that may be of use for the Country, for the bringing in a supply of Goods from forreign parts, that is not as yet of use amongst us, he that discovers it shall have due encouragement granted to him, and the Adventurers therein.

Adventurers in discovering Commodities of use, &c to be encouraged

A G E.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That the age for passing away of Lands or such kind of Hereditaments, or for giving of Vote, Verdicts or Sentence in any Civil Courts or Causes, shall not be under twenty one years of age: But in case of chusing Guardians, fourteen years.

Full age, and age of discretion

A L A R M S.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That when there is an Alarm in any Plantation, the Souldiers shall repair to the several Squadrons or places in which their chief Officers hath appointed them to meet in; and any person that shall neglect or refuse to attend his duty herein, he shall be punished, by a fine of five pounds, or imprisoned, or other corporal punishment; always provided, such delinquency be complained of, and prosecuted within six moneths, and the Delinquent do not give a satisfying reason to the Court of his disability to attend this Order.

In Alarms the Souldiers to repair to their quarters, penalty 5. l. proviso

False Alarms.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That if any person or persons in this Colony, without just and necessary occasion so to do, shall cause any Alarm, by firing any Gun or Guns, or otherwise, in any of our Plantations, at any time between the shutting in of the Evening or break of the Day, (such practices being very prejudicial to the comfort and safety of the Plantations) the person or persons that are discovered, and convicted to be guilty herein, shall pay five pounds a piece to the publick Treasury, or suffer two moneths Imprisonment, or other Corporal punishment; provided, the Delinquency be complained of, and prosecuted within six moneths after the same is committed. Alarms, see Constables Charge to the Watch.

False Alarms penalty 5. l. Proviso.

A P P E A L S.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That if any person shall be agrieved with the sentence of any inferiour Court, Assistant or Commissioner,

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Liberty of appeal from one Assist. or Commission. &c to the Count. Co
 Liberty of appeal from a Coun. Co. to the Court of Assistants
 Proviso
 in which case execution is to be respited
 Liberty to remove the case from the Cour. of Assist. to the General Court
 proviso

he may remove his case to the next County Court in that County where his case was first heard; Provided he give in good security to prosecute his case at the said County Court.

It is also Ordered; That if any person or persons be agrieved with the issue, sentence, or determination of any County Court, he or they shall have liberty to Appeal to the next Court of Assistants, provided, he give in good security to prosecute his Appeal, and pay all Costs: In which case Execution shall be respited till the issue of the case; and for every Appeal to the Court of Assistants, there shall be paid *twenty shillings* to the Publick Treasury.

It is also further Ordered; That if any person or persons shall be dissatisfied with the conclusion of any Court of Assistants, he may remove his case to the General Court, provided, he do it before Execution be granted, and give in good security to prosecute his case at the next Session of the General Court, and pay all costs, and abide by and fulfil the issue of the said Court in the case: And for every case thus brought to the General Court, there shall be paid *forty shillings* to the publick Treasury.

A R R E S T S.

No person to be Arrested, Imprisoned &c.
 Debtors imprisoned to lye at their own charge
 proviso
 If no estate appear the Dr. to answer his debt by service &c

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That no person shall be Arrested or Imprisoned for any Debt or Fine, if the Law can finde any competent means of satisfaction otherwise from his Estate, and if not, his person may be Arrested and Imprisoned, where he shall be kept at his own charge, not the Plaintiffs, till satisfaction be made; unless the Court that hath cognizance of the cause, or some Superiour Court shall otherwise determine: Provided nevertheless, no mans person shall be kept in Prison for Debt, but when there appears some Estate which he will not produce: in which case any Court, Assistant or Commissioner may administer an Oath to the party, or any others suspected to be privy in concealing his Estate: And if no Estate appear, he shall satisfy his Debt by service, if the Creditor require it, in which case, he shall not be disposed of in service to any but of the English Nation.

A T T A C H M E N T S.

Ordinary procefs what

how to be served

Attachments for Contempt &c

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That, the ordinary Summons or Procefs for the present within this Colony, until other provision be made to the contrary, shall be a Warrant fairly written under some Magistrate or Magistrates, Commissioner or Clark of the Courts hand or hands, mentioning the time and place of appearance, together with the substance of the Action, and if the said party or parties do not appear according to the said Summons or Warrant, upon affidavit first made, that the Warrant was read to the said person or persons, within his hearing, or left at the place of his usual abode; the Court shall order an Attachment to be granted against the person or persons Delinquent, to Arrest or Apprehend the said person or persons, for his or their wilful contempt; and in case no sufficient Security or Bayle be tendred to imprison the said party or parties returnable, the next Court that is capable to take cognizance of the business in question, and upon return of the said Attachment, the said Court to do therein according to the Laws and Orders of the Jurisdiction; and in that case also, the party Delinquent shall bear his own charges.

To prevent inconveniencies, and that Creditors may be satisfied in a suitable way, according to the nature of their Contracts and Bargains.

It is Ordered by this Court; That it shall be lawful for such Creditors that have

have Debts owing to them in Money, Corn, Provision, or other special pay, upon the refusal or non payment of such Debts when they are due, to take out an Attachment, and to lay it (if it can be found) upon such Estate as is engaged, or any other Estate of the Debtors, such as the Creditor liketh, provided it be not prohibited by Law, and to secure the Estate so seized unto a Tryal at the next Court appointed for that end, and what ever Estate thus Attached, upon a Judgement comes to Appizement, the said Court that Issues the case shall also appoint them that shall apprise the Estate; the valuation whereof shall be regulated according to the nature and worth of the pay contracted for in present pay.

Attachments for special pay

Court to appoint Prizers

It is also Ordered, that Attachments to Seize upon any mans Lands or Estates, they may be Granted for or against such goods as are Forreign-ers, and do not dwell or Inhabit within this Jurisdiction; or in case upon credible Information, it appears that any Inhabitant that is indebted or engaged, goeth about to convey away his Estate to defraud his Creditours, or to convey away his Person out of this Jurisdiction, so as the Process thereof may not be served upon his person: In that or any other just Cases, there may be Attachment or Attacments granted. Provided that in all cases of Attachments, all or any of the Creditors have liberty to declare upon the said Attachment, if he come in at the Return of the said Attachment. Alwayes provided, That he that first secures an Estate by an Attachment shall first be paid.

Attachments to be granted against forreigners and fraudulent conveyors away of their Estates

Proviso

It is further Ordered by this Court, That whosoever takes out an Attachment against any mans Person, Goods, Chattels, Lands or Hereditaments, sufficient Security and Caution shall be given by him to prosecute his Action in the next Court, and so from Court to Court till it shall receive an issue, and to answer the Defendant such Costs and Damages as shall be awarded to him by the Court. And in all Attachments of Goods or Lands, legal notice shall be given thereof unto the party, or left in writing at his House or place of usual abode if he live within this Jurisdiction, otherwise his Suit shall not proceed.

Where Attachments are granted, security must be given to prosecute

AUDITORS.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That meet Persons shall by this Court be appointed yearly to Audite the Accompts of the Jurisdiction.

Auditors to be appointed yearly &c

BALLAST.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That no Ballast shall be taken from any Shoar in any Town within this Colony by any person whatsoever, without allowance under the hands of those men that are to order the affairs in each Town, upon the penalty of *twenty shillings* for every load so taken. It is also Ordered, that no Ship nor other vessel, shall cast out any ballast in the, Channel, or other place inconvenient in any Harbour within this Jurisdiction upon the penalty of *ten pounds*: all fines for the Breaches of this Law, to be and belong to the Town-Treasury where the offence is committed.

Ballast not to be taken without leave of Townsmen
Penalty
Ballast not to be cast into the Channel
penalty
fines to go to the Town Treas. &c

BARRATRY.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That if any man be proved and adjudged a common Barrater, vexing others with unjust, frequent and needles suits; it shall be in the power of any Court both to reject his Cause, and punish him for his Barratry.

Barratry &c. case to be rejected &c

B

BASTARDY.

BASTARDY.

THere being as yet no stated Rule by this Court Ordered touching the reputed Father of a Bastard, for legal conviction:

Bastardy by
whom to be
brought up &c.

It is therefore Ordered by this Court; That where any man is legally convicted to be the Father of a Bastard child, he shall be at the care and charge to bring up the same, by such assistance of the Mother as nature requireth; and as the Court from time to time (according to circumstances) shall see meet to order: And in case the Father of a Bastard by confession, or other manifest proof upon tryal of the case, do not appear to the Courts satisfaction, then the man charged by the Woman to be the Father, she holding constant in it (especially being put upon the real discovery of the truth of it in the time of her travel) shall be the reputed Father, and accordingly be liable to the charge of maintenance as aforesaid (though not to other punishment) notwithstanding his denial; unless the circumstances of the case and pleas be such on the behalf of the man charged, as that the Court that have the cognizance thereof shall see reason to acquit him, and otherwise dispose of the Child and education thereof; Provided alwayes in case there be no person accused in the time of her Travel, it shall not be available to abate the conviction of a reputed Father.

BILLS. }

Bills Assigned
good Debts to
the Assignee

Proviso

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That any Debt or Debts due upon Bills or other specialties to another, shall be as good a Debt and Estate to the Assignee as it was to the Assigner at the time of its Assignment; and that it shall be lawful for the said Assignee to sue for and recover the said Debt due upon Bill, and so assigned as fully as the original Creditor might have done; alwayes provided, the said Assignment be made in writing, and subscribed with the Assigners own hand, and witnessed by two witnesses.

Bounds of Towns and particular Lands.

FOrasmuch as the Bounds of Towns, and of the Lands of particular Persons are carefully to be maintained, and not without great danger to be removed by any, which notwithstanding by deficiency and decay of marks may at unawares be done, whereby great jealousies of persons trouble in Towns and incumbrances in Courts do often arise, which by due care and means might be prevented;

Every town once
a year to run
their Bounds

marks for bounds

Time of going
bounds
neglect penal. 5.

Particular per-
ambulation to be
attended

penalty for neg-
lect

It is therefore Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That every Town shall procure their Bounds to be set out within twelve Moneths after their Bounds are granted, and when their Bounds are set out once in the year, two or more persons in each Town appointed by the Select men shall appoint with the adjacent Towns, to go the Bounds betwixt their said Towns, and renew their marks; which marks shall be a great heap of Stones or a Trench of six foot long, and two foot broad. The most ancient Town (which for the River is determined to be *Wethersfield*) to give notice of the time and place for this Perambulation, which time shall be in the first or second Moneth; upon pain of five pounds fine, for every Town that shall neglect the same; Provided the persons appointed for this perambulation shall go in their several quarters by order of the Select-men, and at the charge of the several Towns. And it is further Ordered; That if any particular Proprietor, of Lands lying in common with others, shall refuse to go by himself or his assigne, the Bounds betwixt his Land and those whose Land lye next him once a year in the first or second Moneth being requested thereunto, upon one weeks warning, he shall forfeit for every day so neglecting ten shillings, half to the party moving thereto, the other half to the Town Treasury; Provided all breaches of this Law be complained of, and prosecuted within six moneths after the offence is committed.

And

Conecticut COLONY.

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And the Owners of all impropriated Grounds, shall bound every particular parcel thereof with sufficient Mear-stones, and shall preserve and keep them so, upon the penalty of forfeiting *ten shillings per moneth.*

Impropriated Grounds bound with Mear-stones penalty

Brand for Horses.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That each Town in this Colony, shall have a Town Brand, to Brand their Horses with a several letter as is hereby directed, and one in each Town, shall by the Inhabitants of each Town be chosen to Brand them, who shall make an Entry of all Horses so Branded, with their natural and artificial marks in a Book kept by him for that purpose, who shall have *six pence* for every Horse, Mare or Colt so Branded and Entred.

Every Plantation to have a Brand for their Horses &c.

The Letters for the several Plantations are,

Hartford	A.	Gilford	G.	Norwich	N.	Kelimworth	V.
Middletown	B.	New haven	H.	Norwalk	O.	Wethersfield	W.
Simsbury	C.	Windfor	I.	Lime	Q.	Farmington	X.
Saybrook	D.	Stonington	K.	Rye	R.	Wallingford	Y.
Greenwich	E.	New-london	L.	Stanford	S.	Haddum	Z.
Fairfield	F.	Milford	M.	Branford	T.	Siratford	S.

The several Towns Brands.

The Brand to be set on the near or left Shoulder.

B R I D G E S.

THIS Court considering the great danger that persons Horses and Teams are exposed unto, by reason of defective Bridges, and Country High-ways in this Jurisdiction;

Do Order; That if any person at any time loose his his life through defect or insufficiency of such Bridges, in passing any such Bridge or High-way after due warning given unto any of the Select men of the Town in which such defect is, in writing under the hand of two witnesses, or upon presentment to the County Court of such defective Wayes or Bridges, that then the County or Town which ought to secure such wayes or Bridges, shall pay a fine of *one Hundred pounds* to the Parents, Husband, Wife, or Children, or next of Kin to the party deceased. And if any person loose a Limb, break a Bone, or receive any other Bruise, or breach in any part of his body through such defect aforesaid, the County or Town through whose neglect such hurt is done shall pay to the party so hurt double damage; the like satisfaction shall be made for any Team, Cart or Cartage Horse or other Beast, or Loading proportionable to the damage sustained aforesaid.

Loss of life &c. through defect in high-ways or Bridges.

Penalty

to be paid to the next of Kin &c.

For hurt to persons &c double damage to be paid

It is also Ordered; That the several Townships within this Colony shall keep in sufficient repair all the High-ways and Bridges within their Townships.

Every Town to keep their High-ways in sufficient repair

And for the prevention of danger which may come by the insufficiency of Bridges and Passages, which lye upon Town-High-ways, the care whereof doth belong either to the Town or to particular persons to repair, who many times can not procure Workmen to do the same;

It is therefore Ordered by this Court; That upon the complaint of any such Town or Person to any one Assistant or Commissioner, he is hereby impowred to issue out Warrants to the Constable to impress such Workmen in their Township, as shall be needful to secure and repair the same, who shall be paid for their work, either by the Town, or Persons to whom such Bridges and Passages do belong.

Any one Assist. or Commission. may grant warrants to impress men to repair defective wayes & bridges

Burglary and Theft.

FORasmuch as many Persons are apt to be injurious to the Goods and Lives of others, notwithstanding all care and means to prevent and punish the same;

C 2

It

Burglary to be
punished 1st of-
fence

2d. offence

3d. offence

If committed on
the Lords day to
lose an ear &c

It is therefore Ordered by this Court and the Authority thereof; That if any person shall commit Burglary, by breaking up any Dwelling House, or shall Rob any person in the Field or High-ways, such a person so offending, for the first offence, shall be Branded on the Forehead with the letter (B.) if he shall offend in the same kinde the second time, he shall be Branded as before, and also be severely whipt, and if he shall fall into the same offence the third time, he shall be put to death as being incorrigible.

And if any person shall commit such Burglary, or Rob in the Fields or House on the Lords day, besides the former punishment, he shall for the first offence have one of his Ears cut off, and for the second offence in the same kinde, he shall lose his other ear in the same manner, and if he fall into the same offence the third time, he shall be put to death as aforesaid.

For the prevention of Pilfiring and Theft.

Robbers of Or-
chards, Gardens
&c

To pay treble
damages &c

Concealers of
Theft liable to
the same punish-
ment as the thief

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court, That if any person whether Children or Servants, or others, shall be taken or known to Rob any Orchard or Garden, that shall hurt or steal away any Grafts or Fruit Trees, Fruits, Linnen or Woollen, or any other Goods left out in Orchards, Gardens, Back-sides, or any other place in House or Fields, or shall steal any Wood, Timber, or other Goods from the Water-side, from mens Doors, Lots, or Yards, he shall forfeit treble damage to the Owners thereof, and such fine or corporal punishment as the Court shall think meet.

It is also Ordered by this Court; That whosoever shall conceal any Theft, or receive any stolen Goods, knowing them to be such (except the Fact be private, or committed by some Member of his own Family) every such person or persons shall be adjudged liable to such punishment as he that committed the Theft.

And forasmuch many times it so falls out that small Thefts and other Offences of a Criminal nature are committed, both by English & Indians in Towns remote from any prison, or other fit place to which such Malefactors may be committed and secured to the next Court,

One Magistrate
may hear & de-
termine small
Thefts.
proviso

It is therefore Ordered by this Court; That any Magistrate upon complaint made to him, may hear, and upon due proof determine any such small offences of the aforesaid nature, according to the Laws here established, and give warrant to the Constable of that Town where the offender lives, to levy the same; Provided the damage or fine exceed not forty shillings:

Liberty to re-
move the case to
the County Co.
fines to be re-
turned

Where no estate
to satisfy the fine
then to be secu-
red in prison till
fine paid

Servants and
workmen imbe-
zeling their Ma-
sters Goods to
make restitution

Provided also, it shall be lawful for either party to remove his case to the next Court in that County, giving sufficient caution to prosecute the same at the said Court to effect; in which case Execution shall be respited till the matter be issued. And every Magistrate shall make return yearly to the Court of that County where he liveth, of what cases he hath so ended; and also the Constables are to return all such fines as they have received to the County Treasurer: And where the Offender hath nothing to satisfy such Magistrate may punish by Stocks, or secure him in Prison till his fine be paid.

It is also Ordered by this Court; That all Servants or Workmen imbezeling the Goods of their Masters, or such as set them on work, shall make restitution and be liable to all Laws and penalties as others.

CAPITAL

Capital Laws.

1. If any Man or Woman after legal conviction shall Have or Worship any other God but the Lord God, he shall be put to death. *Deu. 13. 6. 17, 21. Ex. 22. 2* Idolatry.
2. If any person within this Colony shall Blaspheme the Name of God the Father, Son or Holy Ghost, with direct, express, presumptuous or high-handed Blasphemy, or shall Curse in the like manner, he shall be put to death, *Levit. 24. 15, 16.* Blasphemy.
3. If any Man or Woman be a Witch, that is, hath or consulteth with a Familiar Spirit, they shall be put to death, *Exo. 22. 18. Lev. 20. 27. Deu. 18. 10. 11.* Witch-craft.
4. If any person shall commit any wilful Murther, committed upon Malice, Hatred or Cruelty, not in a mans just and necessary defence, nor by casualty against his will, he shall be put to death. *Exod. 21. 12, 13, 14. Numb. 35. 30, 31.* Murder.
5. If any person shall slay another through guile, either by Poysoning, or other such Devilish practises, he shall be put to death, *Exod. 21. 14.* Murder through guil.
6. If any Man or Woman shall lye with any Beast or Bruit Creature by carnal Copulation, they shall surely be put to death, and the Beast shall be slain and buried, *Lev. 20. 15, 16.* Beastiality.
7. If any man lyeth with Man-kinde as he lyeth with a Woman, both of them have committed abomination, they both shall surely be put to death, except it appear that one of the parties were forced, or under fifteen years of age. *Levit. 20. 13.* Sodomy.
8. If any Man shall lye with his Mother, or Fathers Wife, or Wives Mother, his Daughter or Daughter in Law, having Carnal Copulation with them, both of them have committed abomination, they both shall be put to death, except it appear that the Woman was forced, or under fourteen years of age, *Levit. 20. 11, 12, 14. & 18. 7. 8, &c.* Incest.
9. If any Man shall forcibly and without consent Ravish any Maid or Woman, by committing Carnal Copulation with her against her consent, he shall be put to death, provided prosecution and complaint be made forthwith upon the Rape, *Deut. 22. 25.* Rape.
10. If any Man stealeth a Man or Man kinde, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall be put to death, *Exod. 21. 16.* Man stealing.
11. If any person rise up by False Witness wittingly and of purpose to take away any mans life, he or she shall be put to death, *Deut. 19. 16, 18, 19.* False-witnes.
12. If any person shall conspire or attempt any Invasion, Insurrection or publick Rebellion against this Colony, or shall Treacherously and Perfidiously attempt the Alteration and Subversion of our Frame of Government Fundamentally established by His Majesties Gracious Charter Granted to this Colony, by endeavouring the betraying of the same into the hands of any foreign power, he shall be put to death. Conspiracy.
13. If any person of the age of sixteen years and upward, shall wilfully and of purpose fire any Dwelling-House, Barn or out-House, he shall be put to death, or suffer such other severe punishment as the Court of Assistants shall determine; if no prejudice or hazard to the life of any person come thereby, and also satisfy all damages to the wronged or agrieved party. Wilful Firing of dwelling house &c.
14. If any Childe or Children above sixteen years old, and of sufficient understanding, shall Curse or Smite their natural Father or Mother, he or they shall be put to death, unless it can be sufficiently testified, that the Parents have been very unchristianly negligent in the education of such Children, or so provoked them by extream and cruel correction, that they have been forced thereunto to preserve themselves from death or maiming, *Exod. 21. 17. Levit. 20. 9. Exod. 21. 15.* Children curse or smite-parents.
15. If any man have a stubborn or rebellious Son, of sufficient understanding and years, viz. sixteen years of age, which will not obey the voice of his Father

Rebellious Son

Father, or the voice of his Mother, and that when they have chastened him, he will not hearken unto them; then may his Father or Mother, being his natural Parents lay hold on him, and bring him to the Magistrates assembled in Court, and testifie unto them, that their Son is Stubborn and Rebellious, and will not obey their voice and chastisement, but lives in fundry notorious Crimes, such a Son shall be put to death, *Deut. 21. 20. 21.*

Candle-wood.

VV Hereas there is an Order of Court amongst us, which prohibits all particular persons from buying Lands within this Colony of the Indians, either directly or indirectly, under any pretence whatsoever:

Timber and
candle Wood
or Trees not to
be purchased of
Indians without
leave obtained
of the Court.

It is now further Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That no particular person whatsoever, shall buy of the Indians, either directly or indirectly, any Timber, Candle-wood or Trees of any sort or kinde within this Colony, thereby to impropriate them to themselves without leave from this Court, though it be without the bounds of the severall Towns.

Cask and Cooper.

IT is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That Cask-ufed for Tar or other Commodities to be put to sale, shall be Assized as followeth, *viz.* every Cask commonly called Barrels or half Hogsheads, shall contain *twenty eight* Gallons Wine measure, and other Vessels proportionable; and all Pork and Beef Barrels shall contain *thirty one* Gallons and a half, and that fit persons shall be appointed from time to time in all places needful to Gage all such Vessels or Cask, and such as shall be found of due Assize, according to this Order shall be marked with the Gagers mark and no other, who shall have for his pains *four pence* for every Tun, and so proportionably. And it is also Ordered, that every Cooper shall have a distinct Brand-mark on his own Cask, upon pain of forfeiture of *twenty shillings* for every defect.

Half Hogshead
28 Gallons.
Pork Barrels 31
Gallons and a
half.
Gagers
Their Fees
Coopers Brand.
Penalty.

Cattle, Corn-fields.

FOrasmuch as disordered Persons are very apt to take other mens Horses, sometimes upon the Commons, sometimes out of their own Grounds, Common-Fields and Inclosures, and ride them at their pleasure, without any leave or privity of their Owners; It is Ordered by the Authority of this Court; That whosoever shall take any other mans Horse, Mare or drawing Beast out of his Inclosure, upon any Common, out of any Common field or elsewhere, except such be taken damage feizant, and disposed of according to Law, without leave of the Owners, and shall ride or use the same, he shall pay to the party wronged treble damages; or if the Complainant shall desire it, then to pay only *ten shillings*, and such as have not to make satisfaction, shall by service make payment thereof; any one Assistant or Commissioner may hear and determine the same: all offences or breaches of this Order to be prosecuted within *six months*, all after prosecution to be void and of no effect.

For the prevention of differences that may arise in the owning of Cattle that be lost or stray away: It is Ordered by this Court and the Authority thereof, That the Owners of any Cattle within this Jurisdiction shall Ear-mark or Brand all their Cattle and Swine that are above half a year old (except Horses) and that they cause their severall Marks to be Registred in the Town-book, and whatsoever Cattle shall be found un-marked, shall forfeit *five shillings* a head, whereof *two shillings six pence* shall be to the Complainer, and the other to the County Treafury.

Riding or work-
ing mens Cattle
without leave
treble damage.
or 10. s. Fine

or otherwise pun-
ished

Cattle to be ear
marked

Ear marked to
be recorded
Penalty 5 s

Common-Fields and Fences.

VV Hereas the condition of these Plantations in these beginnings wherein we are, is such, that necessity constrains to improve much of the ground belonging to the severall Towns in a Common way, and whereas the publick and general good