

C H A P. IX.

An ACT for the more effectual destroying squirrels and crows in the counties of Kent, Queen-Anne's and Talbot; and for destroying red foxes in the said counties. Lib. BLC. fol. 474. Passed 24th of June, 1749.

This act was to continue for three years, &c. Farther continued by 1752, ch. 5, 1755, ch. 13, 1758, ch. 10, and 1762, ch. 18, for three years, &c. Expired.

C H A P. X.

An ACT to empower the justices of Queen-Anne's county court to sell the materials of the old prison of that county, and the produce thereof to apply as therein directed. Lib. BLC. fol. 475.

C H A P. XI.

An ACT for the relief of persons accused and acquitted, and of witnesses against persons accused. Lib. BLC. fol. 476.

To be in force three years, &c. Expired.

C H A P. XII.

An ACT for taking off corporal punishment inflicted on females having base-born children, and other purposes therein mentioned. Lib. BLC. fol. 477.

BE IT ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, 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 from and after the end of this present session of assembly, every free woman who shall commit fornication, and shall be thereof convicted in any county court of this province, either by confession or verdict, shall be fined by the justices of the said court in the sum of thirty shillings current money of this province, for her said offence; and in case such offender shall refuse or neglect to discover to the said court, upon oath, the person with whom she committed such offence, that then she shall be fined by the said court, in a summary way, the further sum of thirty shillings like money, as a fine for such person, over and above the aforesaid fine for her own offence as aforesaid, together with all charges of such prosecution; and in case she shall make such discovery as aforesaid, that then the said county court shall be and they are hereby authorized, directed and required, to proceed against such person in like manner as in other criminal cases; and if he shall be convicted of such offence, by confession or verdict, then he shall, by the said county court, be fined in the sum of thirty shillings current money for the said offence, together with all charges of such prosecution.

Any free woman convicted of fornication shall be fined, &c.

II. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That in case a birth shall proceed from such fornication, and such woman shall refuse or neglect to discover as aforesaid, then she shall, over and above the fines aforesaid, be ordered and adjudged by the county court to give good security to keep the child so born from becoming any charge to such county, or for want of such security, she shall be and stand committed to the sheriff's custody; and in case such discovery as aforesaid shall be made in manner aforesaid, then the person with whom she committed such offence shall, over and above the fine aforesaid, be ordered and adjudged by the county court to give good security to keep the child so born from becoming any charge to such county, and for want of such security, he shall be and stand committed to the sheriff's custody, and such woman shall go thereof discharged.

In case of a birth to give security, &c.

III. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That if such woman guilty of fornication as aforesaid will not discover as aforesaid, and shall be unable or unwilling to pay her fine and charges aforesaid, or if upon such discovery as aforesaid such person shall be unwilling or unable to pay his fine and the charges as aforesaid, then and in every such case such man or woman respectively, as the case shall happen, shall be obliged to give good security to the right honourable the lord proprietary for the payment of such fines and charges by a certain day, not less than twelve months from the time of taking such security, and for default of such security, to be and stand committed to the custody of the sheriff.

If unable to pay, to stand committed.

IV. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That every such fine as aforesaid shall be and is hereby declared and directed to be applied towards the defraying the public charge of every such county respectively.

Application of fines.

V. AND, whereas by an act, entitled, An act for the punishing the offences of adultery and fornication, it is enacted, "that it shall and may be lawful for the minister, vestry and churchwardens of