THE

Statutes at Large:

BEING

A COLLECTION

OF ALL

LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

FROM THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE,

IN THE YEAR 1619

PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA, PASSED ON THE FIFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

VOLUME I.

By WILLIAM WALLER HENING.

"The *Laws* of a country are necessarily connected with every thing belonging to the people of it; so that a thorough knowledge of *them*, and of their progress, would inform us of every thing that was most useful to be known about them; and one of the greatest imperfections of historians in general, is owing to their ignorance of law." *Priestley's Lect. on Hist. Vol. I. pa.* 149.

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1823.

letter R. and passe vnder the statute of incorrigible rogues, Provided notwithstanding that where any servants shall have just cause of complaint against their masters or mistrises by harsh or vnchristianlike vsage or otherways for want of diet, or convenient necessaryes that then it shall be lawfull for any such servant or servants to repaire to the next comissioner to make his or their complaint, And if the said commissioner shall find by good and sufficient proofes, that the said servant's cause of complaint is just, The said comissioner is hereby required to give order for the warning of any such master or mistris before the comissioners in their seuerall county courts, where the matter in difference shall be decided as they in their discretions shall think fitt, And that care be had that no such servant or servants be misvsed by their masters or mistrises, where they shall find the cause of complaint to be just. Be it further also enacted that if any servant running away as aforesaid shall carrie either peice, powder and shott, And leave either all or any of them with the Indians, And being thereof lawfully convicted shall suffer death as in case of ffelony.

the cheek with the letter R.

Proviso in case of ill usage of master.

Felony to carry powder, &c. to the Indians.

ACT XXIII.

BE it also enacted and confirmed, that what person or persons soever shall sell or barter with any Indian or Indians for peece, powder and shott and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall forfeit his whole estate, the one halfe to the informer the other halfe to the vse of the county where such ffact shall be committed, And if any person shall barter or trade with the Indians for any other comodities such person shall suffer imprisonment at the discretion of the Governour and Counsell, And whereas it is informed that divers persons do entertaine Indians to kill deare or other game, And do furnish the said Indians with peeces, powder and shott, by which great abuse, not onely the Indians (to the great indangering of the collony) are instructed in the vse of ovr arms, But have opportunity given them to store themselves as well with arms as powder and shott, Be it therefore enacted, That what person or persons soever within the collony, shall lend any Indian either peece, powder and shott, It shall be lawfull for any person meeting with any such Indian so furnished, to

Penalty for selling arms and ammunition to the Indians, or dealing with them.

take away either peece, powder or shott, so as such person taking away either peece, powder or shott do carrie the same to the comander of the county, and acquaint him therewith, which said comander is hereby authorized to give possession to the informer either of the peece, powder or shott so brought before him, And the said commander is further required, to make a strict inquiry and examination to find out such person that did lend or give such peece, powder or shott to the Indians, And in case the said commander or other commanders in examination shall find any person by just proofe delinquent in the premises, he or they are to bind over the said party to answer the same, before the Governor and Counsell the ensuing quarter court, And in such case the party delinquent for his just offence shall forfeit two thousand pounds of tobacco, the one halfe whereof shall be and come to the King's majesty, the other halfe to the informer, And it is further enacted that such delinquent for his second offence shall forfeit his whole estate, one halfe to the King, the other halfe to the informer. And this act to be of force after publication hereof in each county.

ACT XXIV.

Process against debtors lately arrived from England suspended.

THE Governor and Counsell with the Burgesses of the Grand Assembly haveinge taken into serious consideration the estate of the collony and finding that many people have (through their ingagements in England) forsaken their native countrey and repaired hither with resolution to abide here, hopeing in time to gain some competency of subsistance by their labors, Yet neverth'les their creditors hearing of their aboad here in the collony, have prosecuted them with their actions to the ruine of the said debtors, And having duely weighed the causes and reasons induceing such debtors to leave their countrey and friends, And if such suits and pleas be thus early admitted before the countrey shall come to better maturity, It might hazard the deserting of a great part of the country, Therefore that the generall good be preferred before the particular ends of any person, *The Governor, Counsell and Burgesses do hereby enact and confirm*, that all process & suits of this nature be suspended vntil his majestie shall