

THE
GRANTS, CONCESSIONS,
AND
ORIGINAL CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE PROVINCE OF
NEW JERSEY
THE
ACTS

Passed during the Proprietary Governments, and other
material Transactions before the Surrender
thereof to Queen Anne.

The Instrument of Surrender, and her formal Accept-
ance thereof

Lord CORNBURY'S COMMISSION and Instructions Conse-
quent thereon,

Collected by some Gentlemen employed by the General Assembly.
And afterwards

Published by virtue of an Act of the Legislature of the said Province
With proper Tables alphabetically Digested, containing the prin-
cipal Matters in the Book.

By AARON LEAMING and JACOB SPICER.

PHILADELPHIA:

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Majesty for the Province of New Jersey.

sixteenth of September in the year of our Lord 1684, Captain John Pike, and John Pike his son, were by a verdict of a jury, then and there convicted of felony; and upon further enquiry into the said matter, it appears that the intention of the said John Pike, the elder, and younger, were not felonious, nor the goods found in their house, upon which the verdict proceeded, conveyed there with their consent or privity. That therefore the said John Pike and his posterity, together with the rest of his fathers family may be restored against the crime imputed by the said act, as if never any such conviction had been; therefore we pray that it may be enacted, *And be it enacted* by the Governour, Council and Deputies now met and assembled in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that from henceforth the said John Pike, together with the family abovesaid, be restored to their former good name, and to all other immunities, equal with any of their Majesties leige people, as if never any such thing had been. *And be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that whatsoever person or persons, shall from and after publication hereof, presume to reproach or scandalize the said John Pike, his posterity, or any of the aforesaid family, upon the account of any such judgment passed aforesaid, that it shall in such case be lawful for the said John Pike, his posterity or family as aforesaid, or either of them so abused, to commence an action of defamation against the person or persons so offending; any thing in the above said verdict or judgment to the contrary notwithstanding.

Chap. II.

An Act concerning Slaves, &c.

WHEREAS complaint is made by the inhabitants of this Province, that they are greatly injured by slaves having liberty to carry guns and dogs, into the woods and plantations, under pretence of guning, do kill swine. *Be it enacted* by the Governour, Council and Deputies in General Assembly met and assembled, and by the authority of the

same, that no slave or slaves within this Province after publication hereof, be permitted to carry any gun or pistol, or take any dog with him or them into the woods, or plantations, upon any pretence whatsoever; unless his or their owner or owners, or a white man, by the order of his or their owner or owners, be with the said slave or slaves, upon the penalty of twenty shillings for the first offence, and for the second offence, thirty shillings, and so for every offence after so committed ten shillings more; the one half to the informer that shall prosecute the same to effect, the other half to the use of the poor belonging to the town where the fact was committed, to be recovered as an action of debt; forty shillings or under to be tryed at the court of small causes in the town where the fact was committed, and above forty shillings to be try'd by the county court where the fact was committed; the said action to be commenced against the owner or owners, of the aforesaid slave or slaves so offending; and after judgment obtained against the said owner or owners, execution to be levied upon their bodies or estates, for the satisfaction of the said penalty so recovered as aforesaid with cost. *And be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons within this Province, shall suffer his or their slave or slaves, to keep any swine, but what are of their owners mark, upon the penalty of twenty shillings for every swine otherwise marked; to be recovered of the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves as aforesaid. And whereas it is found injurious to many of this Province having slaves, that their slaves are withheld by the countenance, harbouring and entertaining of them by many of the inhabitants thereof, without their owners consent. *Be it enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that any person or persons on whom it can be proved, that they do presume to suffer any slave to be or remain in his house, not licensed by his owner as aforesaid, by the space of two hours, shall forfeit the sum of five shillings, and so proportionably for a longer time, to the owner wrong'd thereby; and that it shall be lawful for any person to apprehend and take up as a runaway, any slave that shall be found five miles from his owners habitation,

or town of his abode, without a certificate for the same, and upon returning the said slave or slaves, to the said owner or owners, he or they so apprehending and returning as aforesaid, shall have paid them by the owner or owners of the said slave or slaves within ten miles distance, five shillings; if within twenty miles, and more than fifteen miles from the said owners habitation, ten shillings per head, and if further, than six pence per mile more to be paid and recovered as aforesaid. *And be it further enacted* by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall lend, give or hire out to any slave, or slaves, pistol, gun or guns, the said person or persons so lending, giving, or hiring, shall forfeit the said pistol, gun or guns, or twenty shillings to the owner of the said slave or slaves, to be recovered as an action of debt as aforesaid.

Chap. III.

An Act for regulation of Trade within this Province.

THAT the act for trade and navigation may be duly observed in this Province, *be it enacted* by the Governor, Council and Deputies in General Assembly met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all deck'd vessels coming into or belonging to this Province, shall make a report at their majesty's custom-house, at Perth Amboy, within the space of twenty four hours after their arrival, and enter and clear at the said custom house, if they unload or load, under the penalty of the forfeiture, and loss of all the goods and commodities, which shall be so exported, or imported, as also of the ship, with all its guns, furniture, tackle, ammunitions and apparel, one third part to the King and Queen, their heirs, and successors, one third part to the Governor for the time being, and one third part to him or them, who shall seize, inform and sue the same to effect in any court of record within this Province.