

CAP. LX.

An ACT for the CONVICTION and PUNISHMENT of CRIMINALS who shall refuse to plead when arraigned, and for the TRIAL of those who shall peremptorily CHALLENGE more than TWENTY.

I. Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly,

Persons refusing to plead &c. in cases of felony or misdemeanors, shall be deemed guilty.

THAT in all cases of felony or misdemeanor, if the person indicted shall refuse to plead to the indictment, stand mute or not answer directly to the same, he shall be deemed guilty and judgment shall be pronounced and execution awarded as if such person had been convicted of such offence by verdict or confession.

A peremptory challenge of more than twenty jurors, shall be over-ruled.

II. And if any prisoner, indicted of a capital crime, shall peremptorily challenge more than twenty of the jury such challenge shall be over-ruled, and the jurors shall be sworn for the trial of such prisoner, as if no such challenge had been peremptorily made.

CAP. LXI. 61.

An ACT for the TRIAL and PUNISHMENT of CRIMINALS who shall steal bills of exchange, bonds, warrants, bills or promissory notes.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly,

Stealing or robbing of bills of exchange &c. deemed felony of the same nature as stealing or robbing of money, &c. and punished accordingly.

THAT if any person shall steal or take by robbery, any bills of exchange, bonds, warrants, bills or promissory notes for the payment of money, being the property of any person, persons, or body politic, it shall be deemed a felony of the same nature and within or without the benefit of clergy in the same manner as it would have been if the offender had stolen, or taken by robbery, money or goods of the like value with the money due on such bills of exchange, bonds, warrants, bills or notes, or secured thereby, and remaining unsatisfied; and the criminal shall suffer like punishment as if he or she had stolen other goods or money of the like value, notwithstanding any of the said particulars so stolen, are termed in law a *chose* in action.