

## CHAPTER DCLXXXVI.

## AN ACT TO PREVENT COUNTERFEITING THE PAPER MONEY OF OTHER COLONIES.

Whereas the want of a sufficient quantity of circulating specie to answer the purposes of commerce or the exigencies of government hath induced this and most others of the British colonies in America to circulate certain paper bills of credit as the representative of specie to pass in payments for limited periods when their redemption is provided for, the counterfeiting of which is usually made felony without benefit of clergy in the respective governments where they are emitted; and it being judged reasonable that neighboring countries having intercourse in trade should provide as far as in them lies against the debasing of their medium of commerce:

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That if any person or persons shall within this province prepare, engrave, stamp or print or cause or procure to be prepared, engraved, stamped or printed the counterfeit resemblance of any paper money which now is or hereafter may be circulated in payments by legislative authority in any British colony or plantation in America, or shall counterfeit or sign the name or names of the signers of any true bills of such paper money to such counterfeit paper with intention that such counterfeit paper shall be passed in payments, whether the same be so passed or not, or if any person or persons, shall in this province pay or tender in payment any such counterfeit money knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited, every such person, being lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged a felon and shall suffer death

without benefit of clergy. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit by altering the denomination thereof with design to increase the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall thereof be legally convicted in any court of record in this province, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory and have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes well laid on; and moreover every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, to be levied on his or her lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one-half to the use of the governor and the other half to the discoverer; and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the cost and charges of prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall by order of the court where he or she shall be convicted be sold for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall continue and be in force from and after the passing thereof for and during the term of five years and no longer.

Passed September 28, 1773. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 20, 1775, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXXI, and the notes to the Acts of Assembly passed May 31, 1718, Chapter 236; March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 239; and the Acts of Assembly passed August 1, 1776, Chapter 728; January 29, 1777, Chapter 738; March 20, 1777, Chapter 753; June 13, 1777, Chapter 755; November 26, 1779, Chapter 869; March 18, 1782, Chapter 960; September 13, 1785, Chapter 1178; April 22, 1794, Chapter 1777; March 5, 1804, P. L. 235; March 16, 1809, P. L. 43; March 21, 1814, P. L. 154; March 25, 1824, P. L. 59; April 23, 1829, P. L. 341; March 31, 1860, P. L. 382; January 7, 1867, P. L. 1369; May 8, 1889, P. L. 127.