

XXVI. And be it enacted, That if any person shall steal, or shall, for any fraudulent purpose, take from its place of deposit for the time being, or from any person having the lawful custody thereof, or shall unlawfully and maliciously obliterate, injure or destroy any Record, Writ, Return, Panel, Process, Interrogatory, Deposition, Affidavit, Rule, Order, or Warrant of Attorney, or any original Document whatsoever, of or belonging to any Court of Record, or relating to any Matter, Civil or Criminal, begun, depending or terminated in any such Court; or any Bill, Answer, Interrogatory, Deposition, Affidavit, Order or Decree, or any original Document whatsoever, of or belonging to any Court of Equity, or relating to any Cause or Matter begun, depending or terminated in any such Court, every such Offender shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor; and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to suffer such punishment, by Fine or Imprisonment, or by both, as the Court shall award—the Imprisonment to be either with or without hard labour, and with or without solitary confinement, as the Court shall think fit, and in no case to exceed the term of Two Years; and it shall not, in any Indictment for such offence, be necessary to allege that the article in respect of which the offence was committed, is the property of any person, or that the same is of any value.

*The Stealing &c.
of Records and
other proceedings
of Courts of Jus-
tice.*

XXVII. And be it enacted, That if any person shall, either during the life of the Testator or Testatrix, or after his or her death, steal, or for any fraudulent purpose destroy or conceal any Will, Codicil or other Testamentary Instrument, whether the same shall relate to Real or Personal Estate, or to both, every such Offender shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor; and being convicted thereof, shall be liable to suffer such punishment as is herein-before last mentioned; and it shall not, in any Indictment for such offence, be necessary to

*The Stealing &c.
of Wills.*