

C A P. II.

An ACT to empower the Justices of the Peace to hold Special Courts of Sessions for the Purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Maintenance of Persons committed to Goals on criminal Actions in the different Parts of this Province, has generally been attended with Expence, from the Length of Time intervening between the Courts, and whereas the Persons so committed, frequently suffer from the Severity of the Weather and Length of Confinement for Remedy whereto.

Justices of the respective Towns and Counties, Or any three of them, one to be of the Quorum, Empowered to hold Special Sessions,

For the trying of simple Larcenies.

No Offende to be punished unless convicted by the verdict of a Jury.

I. *Be it Enacted*, by the Governor, Council and Assembly, That from and after the first Day of January next, which will be in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty six ; it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in their respective Towns and Counties within this Province, or any three of them, one whereof shall be of the quorum, to call a Special Court or Courts of Sessions between the stated Times limited by Law for holding the said Courts, and proceed either by Indictment or in a Summary Way by Motion and Order, to the trying and determining of all criminal Offences which come under the Denomination of simple Larceny, or do not extend to Life or Limb.

Provided always, That it shall not may be lawful for said Justices to pass Sentence or inflict Punishment on such Offenders unless they shall be first convicted at such Court by the Verdict of a Jury duely impannelled and sworn for that Purpose.