

what defects
shall not viti-
ate after ver-
dict, &c.

And that the punishment of offenders may be less frequently intercepted, in consequence of technical niceties :

XXI. *Be it enacted*, That no judgment upon any indictment or information for any Felony or Misdemeanor, whether after verdict or outlawry, or by confession, default or otherwise, shall be stayed or reversed for want of the averment of any matter unnecessary to be proved, nor for the omission of the words as appears by the record," or of the words with force and arms," or of the words "against the Peace," nor for the insertion of the words "against the form of the Statute," instead of the words "against the form of the Statutes," or vice versa ; nor for that any person or persons mentioned in the indictment or information is or are designated by a name of office or other descriptive appellation, instead of his, her, or their proper name or names, nor for omitting to state the time at which the offence was committed, in any case where time is not of the essence of the offence, nor for stating the time imperfectly, nor for stating the offence to have been committed on a day subsequent to the finding of the indictment or exhibiting the information, or on an impossible day, or on a day that never happened, nor for want of a proper or perfect venue, where the Court shall appear by the indictment or information to have had the jurisdiction over the offence.

What not suf-
ficient to stay
Judgment, &c.

XXII. *And be it further enacted*, That no judgment after verdict upon any indictment or information for any Felony or Misdemeanor shall be stayed or reversed for want of a similitude ; nor by reason that the Jury Process has been awarded to a wrong Officer, upon an insufficient suggestion ; nor for any misnomer or misdescription of the Officer returning such process, or of any of the Jurors ; nor because any person has served upon the Jury who has not been returned as a Juror by the Sheriff or other Officer ; and that where the offence charged has been created by any Statute, or subjected to a greater degree of punishment by any Statute, the indictment or information shall, after verdict, be held sufficient to warrant the punishment prescribed by the Statute, if it describe the offence in the words of the Statute.

Quakers and
Moravians in-
stead of an
oath may
make their af-
firmation

XXIII. *Be it further enacted*, That every Quaker or Moravian, who shall be required to give evidence in any case whatsoever, criminal or civil, shall, instead of taking an oath in the usual form, be permitted to make his or her solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, that is to say :—" I, A, B, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm ;" which said affirmation or declaration shall be of the same force and effect in all Courts of Justice, and other places where, by Law, an oath is required, as if such Quaker or Moravian had taken an oath in the usual form ; and if any person, making such affirmation or declaration, shall be convicted of having wilfully, falsely and corruptly, affirmed or declared any matter or thing, which, if the same had been sworn in the usual form, would have amounted to wilful and corrupt perjury, every such offender shall be subject to the same pains, penalties and forfeitures, to which persons convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury are or shall be subject.

Party whose
name is forged
a competent
witness in pro-
secution for
forgery

XXIV. *And be it declared and enacted*, That on any prosecution by indictment or information, either at Common Law, or by virtue of any Statute, against any person for forging any Deed, Writing, Instrument, or other matter whatsoever, or for uttering or disposing of any Deed, Writing, Instrument, or other matter whatsoever, knowing the same to be forged, or for being accessory, before or after the fact, to any such offence, if the same be a Felony, or for aiding, abetting or counselling, the commission of any such offence, if the same be a Misdemeanor, no person shall be deemed to be an incompetent witness in support of any such prosecution, by reason of any interest which such person may have, or be supposed to have, in respect of such Deed, Writing, Instrument or other matter.

And whereas, it is expedient to prevent all doubts respecting the civil rights of persons convicted of Felonies, not capital, who have undergone the punishment to which they were adjudged :

After punish-
ment for Fe-
lony be en-
dured it shall
have the ef-
fect of a par-
don

XXV. *Be it therefore enacted*, That where any offender hath been or shall be convicted of any Felony not punishable with death, and hath endured, or shall endure, the punishment to which such offender hath been or shall be adjudged for the same, the punishment so endured hath and shall have the like effects and consequences as a pardon, under the Great Seal, as to the Felony whereof the offender was so convicted ; *Provided always*, that nothing herein contained, nor the enduring of such punishment, shall prevent or mitigate any punishment