

publication of banns of license of marriage first had and obtained; therefore, for the prevention thereof, be it enacted, that if any person shall, from and after the twenty-fifth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, solemnize matrimony in any other place than a church or public chapel where banns have been usually published, unless by special license from the Archbishop of Canterbury; or shall solemnize matrimony without publication of banns, unless license of marriage be first had and obtained from some person or persons having authority to grant the same, every person knowingly and willingly so offending, and being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of felony, and shall be transported to some of his Majesty's plantations in America for the space of fourteen years, according to the laws in force for the transportation of felons: and all marriages solemnized from and after the twenty-fifth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, in any other place than a church or such public chapel, unless by special license as aforesaid, or that shall be solemnized without publication of banns or license of marriage from a person or persons having authority to grant the same, first had and obtained, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Persons convicted of solemnizing matrimony without, &c., except by special license, to be transported, and the marriages null.

IX. *Provided*, That all prosecutions for such felony shall be commenced within the space of three years after the offence committed.

Prosecutions within three years.

X. *Provided always*, That after the solemnization of any marriage, under a publication of banns, it