

"Whereas many persons have of late years openly avowed and published many blasphemous and impious opinions, contrary to the doctrines and principles of the christian religion, greatly tending to the dishonor of Almighty God, and may prove destructive to the peace and welfare of the kingdom; wherefore, for the more effectual suppressing of the said detestable crimes, be it enacted, that if any person or persons having been educated in, or at any time having made profession of the christian religion within this realm, shall by writing, printing, teaching or advised speaking, deny any one of the persons of the Holy Trinity to be God, (repealed as to this part by 53 Geo. III., c. 160) or shall assert or maintain that there are more Gods than one, or shall deny the christian religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be of Divine authority, and shall, upon indictment or information in any of His Majesty's Courts at Westminster, or at the assizes, be thereof lawfully convicted by the oath of two or more credible witnesses, such person or persons for the first offence shall be adjudged incapable and disabled in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, to have or enjoy any office or offices, employment or employments, ecclesiastical, civil or military, or any part in them, or any profit or advantage appertaining to them or any of them; and if any person or persons so convicted as aforesaid, shall, at the time of his or their conviction, enjoy or possess any office, place or employment, such office, place or employment shall be void and is hereby declared void; and if such person or persons shall be a second time lawfully convicted as aforesaid, of all or any of the aforesaid crime or crimes, that there he or they shall from henceforth be disabled to sue, prosecute, plead, or use any action or information in any court of law or equity, or to be guardian of any child, or executor or administrator of any person or capable of any legacy or deed of gift, or to bear any office, civil or military, or benefit ecclesiastical forever within this realm and shall also suffer imprisonment for the space of three years, without bail or mainprize, from the time of such con-