

to maim or disfigure, or the accessories thereto, but that in all and every case of maiming or disabling any person of any limb or member, or disfiguring, whether the same be wilfully done with a sharp instrument or fire-arms or any other weapon, the person so offending and the aiders and abettors, being lawfully thereof convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of felony and excluded the Benefit of Clergy.

XV. *And whereas*, by divers Statutes and Laws, persons guilty, as well of felony as of divers misdemeanors, are liable to be imprisoned and confined to labour in public work-houses and Bridewells, and in order to provide for the just punishment of all such offenders; *Be it enacted*, by the authority aforesaid, that until suitable work-houses, Bridewells or penitentiary-houses, may be provided, it shall and may be lawful for all and every court or magistrate, who by law hath power to commit any felon or offender to any work house or Bridewell, and every such court or magistrate is hereby authorized, by the sentence of such court or by warrant under the hand and seal of the magistrate, having authority in the premises, to commit the felon or offender to the common gaol of the District, where the offence may be committed, and there to remain for such period and time, as by law the offender ought to bear and suffer in any work-house or Bridewell for the felony, misdemeanor or crime by him done and committed.

XVI. *And whereas* the punishment of burning in the hand, when any person is convicted of felony within the Benefit of Clergy, is often disregarded and ineffectual, and sometimes may fix a lasting mark of disgrace and infamy on offenders, who might otherwise become good subjects and profitable members of this government, *Be it therefore further enacted*, that from and after the passing of this Act, when any person shall be lawfully convicted of any felony within the Benefit of Clergy, for which he or she is liable by law to be burned or marked in the brawn of the left thumb, it shall and may be lawful for the court before which any person shall be so convicted, or any court holden for the same place with like authority, if such court shall think fit, instead of such burning or marking, to impose upon such offender such