

CONNECTICUT'S BLUE LAWS.

SOME LEGAL MEASURES OF BY-GONE DAYS.

THE people of Connecticut must have had lively times in the old days, when the famous blue laws were in force. Here is a compendium of the Puritan regulations which were in force in the earlier part of the last century. It must have been a cheerful task to live up to them:

The governor and magistrates convened in general assembly are the supreme power, under God, of the independent dominion. From the determination of the assembly no appeal shall be made.

Whoever says there is a power and jurisdiction above and over this dominion shall suffer death and loss of property.

Conspirators attempting to change or overturn this dominion shall suffer death.

The judges shall determine controversy without a jury.

No one shall be a freeman and give a vote unless he be converted and a member in full communion with one of the churches allowed in this community.

No man shall hold any office who is not sound in faith and faithful to this dominion, and whoever gives a vote to such a person shall pay a fine of twenty shillings for the first offence and for the second he shall be disfranchised.

Each freeman shall swear by the blessing of God to bear true allegiance to this dominion, and that Jesus is the only King.

No Quaker or dissenter from the worship of the established dominion shall be allowed to give a vote for

the election of magistrates or any other office.

No food or lodging shall be afforded a Quaker, Adamite or heretick.

No priest shall abide in this dominion; he shall be banished and suffer death on his return. Priests may be seized by anyone without a warrant.

No one is to cross a ferry but with an authorized ferryman

No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in his garden or elsewhere, except reverently to and from meeting.

No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep house, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day.

No woman shall kiss her child on the Sabbath or fasting day.

The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.

To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed a theft.

A person accused of trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clear himself by his oath.

When it appears that an accused has confederates, and he refuses to discover them he may be racked.

No one shall buy or sell lands without the permission of the selectmen.

Whosoever published a lie to the prejudice of his neighbor shall sit in the stocks or be whipped fifteen lashes.

No minister shall keep a school.

Whosoever brings dice or cards into this dominion shall pay a fine of £3.

Whosoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver or bone lace above two shillings by the yard shall be presented to the grand jurors, and the selectman shall tax the offender at £300 estate.

A debtor in prison swearing he has no estate shall be let out and sold to make satisfaction.