

clerk respectively, may be prosecuted upon this or any former act relating to marriages, within two years after the offence committed, and not afterwards; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. [Passed December 1.]

CHAPTER 17.

AN ACT FOR THE MORE EFFECTUAL PREVENTING DEFAULT IN THE APPEARANCE OF JURORS.

WHEREAS the mulets or fines set upon jurors for not appearing and attending the several courts of justice within this province, whereto they are respectively chosen and summoned, are by law limited to the sum of forty shillings, by reason whereof persons most able and best qualified to perform that duty oftentimes choose rather to incur and undergoe so small a penalty than to perform that service, which hath prov[e]d a general inconvenience, tending greatly to the damage of many persons in cases of the greatest moment and concern, as well as very much retarding the business and affairs of the several courts; for remedy whereof,—

Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That the justices of the superiour court of judicature, court of assize and general goal delivery, and the justices of the inferiour court of common pleas, and of the general sessions of the peace, respectively, shall and hereby are required to set reasonable fines upon all jurors duely return[e]d to serve in the said courts, that make default, unless necessitated thereto by reason of sickness or some other extraordinary let[t] or hindrance, not less than the sum of four pounds, nor exceeding the sum of six pounds, each, at the discretion of the said justices, and to cause the same to be levied and disposed of as by law provided.

1698, chap. 13.

Superior and inferior courts to set fines on jurors that make default.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That the fee or allowance to be paid to the petty jury for each verdict shall be thirteen shillings; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. [Passed November 29.]

Petit jury's allowance thirteen shillings.

CHAPTER 18.

AN ACT FOR THE MAKING AND EMITTING THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS IN BILLS OF CREDIT ON THIS PROVINCE, IN SUCH MANNER AS IN THE SAID ACT IS HEREAFTER EXPRESSED.

WHEREAS, by reason of a long and expensive war which his majesty's good subjects of this province have been lately engaged in for their own necessary defence, and of some very chargeable expeditions undertaken against the French of Canada, and other places, by royal orders from her late majesty, there is an heavy debt now lying on the publick; and whereas all the silver money which formerly made payments in trade to be easy, is now sent into Great Britain to make returns for part of what is owing there, and the bills of credit on the province, being yearly called in, are now grown very scarce, and few of them passing in proportion to the great demand there is for the same; to the intent, therefore, that there be some relief under these present difficulties, and that