



Another



O, YE THIEVES AND COUNTERFEITERS!

1668



1799

In 1675 the assembly at Elizabeth Town enacted that any person committing burglary or highway robbery shall be burnt in the hand with the letter T for the first offense, on the forehead with the letter B for the second, and for the third, the penalty was death.

The Quaker Proprietors of West Jersey at first provided that thieves and robbers "shall make restitution to the extent of twice the value of the stolen goods," to be paid in cash or service. Later, in 1681, the penalty was increased four fold, and, in 1700 first offenders were given "thirty-nine stripes on the bare back;" if convicted a second time, "the letter T was burned on the forehead;" if a third time, "the letter T was burned in the cheek, and they were imprisoned at hard labor and given thirty-nine stripes every month for one year."

Stealing boats and canoes, in East Jersey (1686) was punishable by a fine, and, if unable to pay, the offender was given ten stripes on his bare back.

Owing to the large amount of paper money of "various denominations" in circulation between 1723 and 1759,

"counterfeit notes of every issue were passed upon the public," but conviction was difficult. Of eleven persons arrested in Morris County, ten escaped and "through the great remissness of the sheriff and magistrates they continued at and about their own houses and were not apprehended."

The penalty for making, aiding, assisting, altering or passing counterfeit bills of credit was "death without benefit of clergy," up to the time of the adoption of the Federal Constitution. For altering the value of good bills, or passing them, the offender was pilloried, cropped, whipped or fined, or all three. He was also to pay the injured person double the value of the damages; or, if unable to pay, sold for a term not exceeding seven years.

The penalty for circulating foreign gold and silver coins was either a whipping or branding with the letter B in the brawn of the left thumb, fined, imprisoned, pilloried or cropped—any one or more of these penalties.

If previously convicted, the penalty was death "without benefit of clergy."

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