

## Penalty for Keeping Christmas, 1659:

Penalty for  
keeping Christ-  
mas.

For p̄venting disorders arising in seuerall places w<sup>th</sup>in this iurisdicōn, by reason of some still observing such ffestiualls as were superstitiously kept in other countrys, to the great dishonour of God & offence of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labour, feasting, or any other way, vpon any such accounts as aforesajd, euery such person so offending shall pay for euery such offence fiue shillings, as a fine to the county.

From: *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*. Printed by order of the Legislature, edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, M.D., Vol. IV, Part I, 1650-1660

### **Text Reads (with modern spelling):**

For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries, to the great dishonor of God and offence of others, it is therefore ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, that whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting, or any other way, upon such accounts as aforesaid, every such person so offending shall pay for every such offence five shillings, as a fine to the country.