

C H A P.
IX.

all Negroes, for raising a Fund for the Use of the Public Schools within the several Counties of this Province, an Imposition was laid of Twenty Shillings Current Money per Poll on all Negroes imported into this Province. But forasmuch as it hath been represented to this General Assembly as an Aggrievance and Hardship, that any the Inhabitants within this Province, having Estates in any of the neighbouring Colonies, cannot have the Liberty of removing their Negroes from their Plantations in any the neighbouring Colonies, to work upon their Lands and Plantations in this Province, without paying the Impositions mentioned in the aforementioned Acts; and likewise that it very much tends to the hinderance and preventing of many considerable Families from coming into and settling in this Province, that upon their coming they must be obliged to pay the Impositions as aforesaid, for all their domestic Slaves: For Remedy whereof, it is prayed that it may be Enacted;

No Duty payable by Inhabitants, or new Settlers on Importation of their own proper domestic Slaves.

But they shall be entered with the Naval Officer, and Security given not to be disposed of for 3 Years, &c.

II. And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the End of this present Session of Assembly, no Person or Persons now inhabiting, or that shall hereafter import themselves with their Families to settle and inhabit within this Province, and shall have Occasion to bring into, or import with them, any Negro or Negroes, being their own proper and domestic Slaves, and designed to be kept and employed by them in their own Service, shall be liable to pay the Imposition Money laid on all Negroes imported into this Province by the aforementioned Acts: Provided the Owner of such Negroes, shall, within Two Days after the Importation of such Negro or Negroes, repair to the Naval Officer of the respective Port whereunto such Negroes shall be imported into this Province, and make due Entry of such Negro or Negroes by their proper Names, as their proper domestic Slaves; and likewise give Bond, with one good Security, to be taken in his Lordship's Name, by such Naval Officer, in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds Current Money, that such Owners shall not sell or dispose of any such Negro or Negroes, for and during the Space of Three Years after such Entry made as aforesaid: And the Naval Officer, upon making such Entry and taking Bond as aforesaid, is hereby enjoined to give such Owners a Certificate of their having made due Entry of such Negroes, and giving Bond. Which Certificate shall be a sufficient Justification and Exemption to the Owner of such Negroes, from paying the Impositions on Negroes aforementioned: And such Owner is hereby obliged to pay the Naval Officer for every such Entry, Bond and Certificate, the usual Fees allowed them by Act of Assembly.

If sold by an Executor, &c. within that Time, Duty shall be paid.

III. And forasmuch as it may so happen, that upon the Death of the Owners of Negroes entered and exempted from paying the Duties as aforesaid, such Negroes may fall into the Hands of the Executors or Administrators, within the Time above limited, who may be under a Necessity of selling and disposing of such Negroes, that then, in every such Case, such Executor or Administrator, first paying to the Naval Officer of the said Port the Imposition Money of Twenty Shillings Sterling, and Twenty Shillings Currency, laid on Negroes by the aforementioned Acts, and taking a Permit from such Naval Officer, may, within the Time by this Act limited, sell and dispose of such Negroes; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Who shall be deemed Inhabitants.

IV. And for removing any Doubts or Disputes that may hereafter arise concerning the Persons who shall be taken for, and deemed Inhabitants of this Province, so as to reap the Benefit and Advantage of the several Laws as Inhabitants; **It is hereby Declared,** That no other Person is hereby intended, but such as have actually lived and inhabited within this Province for the full Term of Three Years; and that they only shall reap the Benefits and Advantages