

shall accrue to such Person, to whom she is a Servant, by Occasion of any Child or Children, begotten, as aforesaid, in the Time of her Servitude, as aforesaid; and after such Satisfaction made, shall again become a Servant for and during the Term of Seven Years aforesaid: And if such Begetter of such Child, as aforesaid, be a Free Negro, he shall become a Servant for and during the Term of Seven Years, as aforesaid, to be adjudged by the Justices of the County-Court where such Fact is committed, according to this Law, in the Clause made and provided against such Servants as have Bastards; and the Issues or Children of such unnatural and inordinate Copulations, shall be Servants until they arrive at the Age of One and thirty Years: And any White Man, that shall beget any Negro Woman with Child, whether Free Woman or Servant, shall undergo the same Penalties as White Women; all which Times of Servitude, by this Act imposed upon the Persons having so offended, to be disposed of, or imploy'd, as the Justices of such County shall think fit; the Produce whereof shall be appropriated towards Defraying the County Charges.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That any Servant-Woman, having a Bastard-Child, and not able sufficiently to prove the Party, charged to be the Begetter of such Child, in every such Case, the Mother of such Child shall be liable to satisfy the Damage so sustained, by Servitude, or otherwise, as the Court, before whom such Matter is brought, shall see convenient: Provided, That where the Mother of any such Child, as aforesaid, do prove her Charge, by sufficient Testimony of Witness, Confession of the Party charged, or pregnant Circumstances, agreeing with her Declaration in the Extremity of her Pains or Throws of Travail, and her Oath taken by some Magistrate, before the Time of her Delivery of every such Bastard-Child, or after her Delivery; then the Party charged, if a Servant, shall satisfy half the said Damage; if a Freeman, shall satisfy the whole Damage, by Servitude, or otherwise, as the Court, before whom such Matter is brought, as aforesaid, shall think fit; but if the said Freeman cannot be brought to Justice, then, and in every such Case, she shall make the same Satisfaction, as if she could not prove the Begetter, as aforesaid: And if any such Mother, as aforesaid, be able to prove, by such Testimony, or Confession of the Party charged, that he, being a single Person, and a Freeman, did, before the Begetting of such Child, promise her Marriage, that then he shall be at his Choice, either to perform his Promise to her, or recompence her Abuse, according as the Court, before whom such Matter is brought, shall adjudge.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That after the End of this Session of Assembly, it shall and may be lawful for the Provincial and County-Courts of this Province, to hear and determine any Complaints between Masters and Servants, by Way of Petition, to give Judgment, and award Execution upon the same, and that upon Appeal, or Writ of Error, brought upon the same from any County-Court of this Province, to the Provincial-Court, or from the Provincial-Court, to the Governor and Council; and no such Judgment shall be reversed for want of judicial Process, or that the same was not tried by a Jury, or any Matter of Form, either in the Entry, or giving Judgment: Provided it appears by the Record, that the Defendant was legally Summoned, and not condemned unheard.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Matter of Dispute arises, concerning Servants imported into this Province, or any Servant that binds himself for Years within this Province, or any bound out by the County-Courts of this Province, in Relation to their Indentures, Contracts, or Wages, any other Matter of Difference, between the said Master and Servant, the same shall be tried, heard, and determined, by Petition, as aforesaid; any Law, Statute, Usage, or Custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

AND