

Penalty in
case of De-
fault.

Proviso.

Manner of
setting free, or
manumitting
Slaves.

Penalty of Four Pounds Current Money, to be taken to, and in the Name of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary for the Time being, and his Successors for the Use of such County; with Condition that such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners of such Slave or Slaves, his, her, or their Executors or Administrators, shall provide sufficient Food and Cloathing for such Slave or Slaves, during the Continuance of this Act; and not suffer such Slave or Slaves to depart or wander, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of this Act. *Provided,* That if any Slave or Slaves shall run away or abscond from the Service of his or her Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners, contrary to the Will of such Master, Mistress, Owner or Owners, such running away and absconding shall not be construed, deemed, or taken to be a departing and wandering within the Intent and Meaning of this Act.

And to the End that hereafter there may be an uniform and regular Manner of granting Freedom to Slaves, *Be it likewise Enacted,* That where any Person or Persons, possessed of any Slave or Slaves within this Province, who are or shall be of healthy Constitutions, and sound in Mind and Body, capable by Labour to procure to him or them sufficient Food and Raiment, with other requisite Necessaries of Life, and not exceeding fifty Years of Age; and such Person or Persons possessing such Slave or Slaves as aforesaid, and being willing and desirous to set free or manumit such Slave or Slaves, may, by writing under his, her, or their Hand and Seal, evidenced by two good and sufficient Witnesses at least, grant to such Slave or Slaves his, her, or their Freedom: And that any Deed or Writing, whereby Freedom shall be given or granted to any such Slave, which shall be intended to take Place *in futuro*, shall be good to all Intents, Constructions, and Purposes whatsoever, from the Time that such Freedom or Manumission is intended to commence by the said Deed or Writing, so that such Deed and Writing be not in Prejudice of Creditors, and that such Slave, at the Time such Freedom or Manumission shall take Place or commence, be not above the Age aforesaid, and be able to work, and gain a sufficient Livelihood and Maintainance, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; which Instrument of Writing shall be acknowledged before one Justice of the Peace of the County wherein the Person or Persons granting such Freedom shall reside; which Justice shall Indorse, on the Back of such Instrument, the Time of the Acknowledgement, and the Party making the same; which he or they, or the Parties concerned shall cause to be entered among the Records of the County Court, where the Person or Persons granting such Freedom shall reside, within six Months after the Date of such Instrument of Writing: And the Clerk or Clerks of the respective County Courts within this Province shall, immediately upon the Receipt of such Instrument, Indorse the Time of his receiving the same, and shall well and truly enroll such Deed or Instrument in a good and sufficient Book in Folio, to be regularly Alphabetted in the Names of both Parties, and to remain in the Custody of the said Clerk or Clerks for the Time being, among the Records of the respective County Courts; and that the said Clerk or Clerks shall, on the Back of every such Instrument, in a full legible Hand, make an Indorsement of such Inrollment, and also of the Folio of the Book in which the same shall be enrolled, and to such Indorsement set his Hand, the Person or Persons requiring such Entry, paying the usual and legal Fees for the same.

And be it likewise Enacted, That a Copy of such Record, duly attested under the Seal of such Office, shall, at all Times hereafter, be deemed, to all Intents and Purposes, good Evidence to prove such Freedom.

And