

sum of eight hundred dollars, one half to the use of the county in which the recovery may be had, and the other to the informer, to be recovered by action of debt, or bill of indictment; and if the said sum be not paid, or secured to be paid, as herein directed, within thirty days after judgment, then such person or persons shall and may be adjudged by the court to serve on the roads for any period not exceeding five years.

C H A P.
LXVII.

XVI. And be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, if any person or persons shall import or bring into this state any free negro or mulatto, or any person bound to service for a term of years only, and shall sell or otherwise dispose of such free negro, mulatto, or person bound to serve for a term of years only, as a slave for life; or for any longer time than by law such person may be bound to serve, knowing such negro or mulatto to be free, or entitled to freedom at a certain age; every such person or persons shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of eight hundred dollars, to be recovered by action of debt or indictment, one half to the use of the county, the other half to the informer; and in case the said sum shall not be paid, or secured to be paid, within thirty days; then such person or persons shall and may be adjudged to work on the roads for any term not exceeding five years.

Or importing
them into this
state, &c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That if any master, mistress, owner or owners, of any slave or slaves, shall suffer any such slave or slaves to depart from their respective habitation or quarter, and remain at large, begging or becoming burthensome to the respective neighbourhoods, or to other persons, it shall be lawful for the county courts where the master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves shall reside, and they are hereby required, upon the complaint or information of any credible person, (such complaint or information being supported by oath or affirmation, as the case may require,) to cause such complaint or information to be minuted among their proceedings, and thereupon to issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county against such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, thereby to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, to appear before them at some day to be limited in such warrant; and if, on a due examination in a summary way, the said court shall be satisfied that such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, have suffered such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions and intention of this act, the said court are hereby empowered and required to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, to enter into recognizance, with one sufficient security, if the same shall be awarded, in the penalty of one hundred dollars, to be taken to and in the name of this state, and the condition of the said recognizance shall be such, that if such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, his, her or their executors or administrators, shall suffer such slave or slaves to depart and remain at large, contrary to the provisions of the act in such cases made and provided, then such recognizance shall remain in force and virtue; and if any such master, mistress, owner or owners, of any such slave or slaves, shall afterwards commit any breach of the condition of such recognizance, it shall be lawful for any person to put in suit and prosecute such recognizance against the cognizor or cognizors thereof; and if the master, mistress, owner or owners, bound by such recognizance, his, her or their executors or administrators, shall be convicted of any of the breaches assigned by verdict, confession or otherwise, the judgment of the court shall be rendered for the penalty and costs of suit, and the same may be recovered by any process of execution, and one third of the penalty shall be applied to the use of the prosecutor, and the remainder to be applied as a fund for the county school, if any, if not, to the use of the county in which such conviction shall happen, and the name of the person prosecuting such recognizance shall be endorsed upon the original writ, and such person shall be answerable for the fees and costs; provided, that if any slave or slaves shall run away or abscond from the service of their 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 remaining at large within the meaning of this act.

Masters, &c.
not to suffer
slaves to de-
part, &c.

XVIII. And