

Public Record Office, London. C. O. 5, Vol. 731, Maryland. From 1694-1702. Acts

afforesaid, one moyetie thereof to their Majesties the other halfe to the Vestry of the Parish where such Ordinary shall be kept any Law statute or usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding. And lastly it is also hereby Enacted by the Authority afforesaid that the Justices of the Provinciaall Court or the Commissioners of the respective County Courts shall give this act in charge to the severall grand Juries as also to the severall Commissioners of the Respective Courts & the Majestrates of the said Citty to their severall & respective Constables to Enquire into the breach of his act & into all disorders committed in the said Ordneries & present the same if any be to the severall Courts to be examined & punished according to Law & that all & every respective act & acts formerly made concerning Ordinary Keepers are hereby repealed & made void.

And be it further enacted by the Authority afforesaid that no Ordinary Keeper shall credit any Seaman or freeman unmarried & not haveing a plantation seated for above the vallue of four hundred pounds of tobacco or twenty shillings sterling in one year on penalty of being hereby disabled to recover the same in any Court of Reccord within this Province.

Acts of May, 1695, ch. 6 (Continued by 1695, ch. 26)

An Act Restraining the frequent Assembling of Negroes within this Province.

Whereas this present Gennerall Assembly have taken into their serious consideracōn the evil consequences attending the continual concourse of Negroes on Sabboth & holy days meeting in great numbers having thereby the opportunity of Imbezelling & bartaring away sundry Goods belonging to their Masters or Owners to the great damage of such Masters & Owners as afforesaid, as also of conspiring & proposeing waies & means for the gaining of their liberty & freedom which must inevitably end in Insurrection to suppress which would occasion much bloodshed if not impossible ever to be effected, for the prevention of all which mischiefs & inconveniencies for the future, Be it Enacted by the King & Queens most Excellent Majesties by & with the advice & Consent of this present gennerall Assembly & by & with the Authority of the same that from & after the publication hereoff no negro slave whatsoever shall presume at any time to travell to any place of meeting or resort or wander about from Plantation to Plantation under pretext of visiting, but that every negro so travelling or wandering shall receive such corporall punishment as the person or persons finding such negro slave or slaves transgressing as afforesaid against the true intent & meaning of this act shall think fitt to impose, not extending to life or member or otherwaies disableing such negro from performing service without being liable to any action for damages by the Master or Owner of such negro or negroes brought against such person or persons so giving them correction as afforesaid.