

No. 8 An Act to prevent Masters of Ships and Vessels from clandestinely carrying Servants and Slaves, or Persons indebted, out of this Province.  
 Liber H. S. No. I

[Preamble.] Whereas divers Servants and Slaves, belonging to the People of this Province, and Persons Indebted therein, have been carried away out of the same Province, in Ships or Vessels trading therein, to the great Loss and Damage of his Majesty's Subjects, the good People of Maryland: To prevent therefore so great an Evil, it is prayed that it may be enacted;

[Masters of Vessels, when they enter, to be sworn, that they will not clandestinely carry away any Servants &c.] 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 the Authority of the same, That from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, when, and as often as, any Commander, or Master of a Vessel, above Eighteen Feet by the Keel, shall come to enter with, or take out a Permit from, any Naval-Officer within this Province, or the Limits or Precincts thereof, it shall not be lawful for such Naval-Officer, to suffer such Commander, or Master, to enter such his Vessels with him or them, or grant him or them a Permit to trade within the said Province, until such Commander, or Master, shall have taken the following Oath, on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God, or Affirmation if a Quaker, which Oath, or Affirmation, such Naval-Officer or Officers are hereby impowered to administer, viz. "I A. B. Commander of the Ship or Vessel C. will not clandestinely conceal, or permit to be concealed, on board my Ship or Vessel, during my stay within this Province, any Servant, or Slave, belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants thereof, nor will wittingly or willingly carry away, out of this Province, any Servant or Slave, or Servants or Slaves, belonging to any Inhabitant or Inhabitants thereof, or any Person or Persons Indebted therein, common Sailors excepted, contrary to the Laws of this Province. So help me God."  
 [The Oath.] p. 17

[Slaves, &c. not to be suffer'd on board Vessels;] And be it likewise Enacted, That no Master of a Vessel coming into this Province, and entering to trade therein, shall suffer any Slave or Slaves, Servant or Servants, to frequent his or their Vessel or Vessels, or come on board or conceal such Servant or Servants, or Slave or Slaves, on board such his or their Ship or Vessel, or Ships or other Vessels; and in Case any Servant or Servants, Slave or Slaves, shall be kept or concealed on board any Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, coming into, and trading within this Province, for the Space of One Hour or longer, the Master or Commander of such Ship or Vessel, shall forfeit and pay at the rate of Twenty Shillings Current Money, for every Hour each Servant or Slave shall be suffered to frequent his or their Vessel, or be kept or concealed on board his or their Vessel, to the Party owning such Servant or Slave, or Servants or Slaves, the same to be recovered, in a summary Way before One Justice of the Peace, with Costs.