

Merch.^t can Afford to do. He makes no Abatement in his Contract with the Treasury for the Emolum.^{ts} he is to Receive from the Assignm.^t of the Felon's Temporary Service Whereas If the Treasury was to Authorize as they now only Connive at the Sale of the Felon the Contractor ought to Pay instead of Receiving a Consideration for the Passage & its well known what great Sums are paid to procure Indented Servants to go over.

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Papers
No. 584
Md. Hist. Soc.

The English Acts Empower the Court of Session to Assign over the Felon to any pson for the Term for which he is to be Transported but this Seems only Calculated (& so it Appears from the Preamble to the Act) the more Effectually to prevent the Felon's Return from Transportation and not to Enhance the Contractors Profit. All that is Required of the Contractor being to Transport the Felon to America (for which he is paid by the Treasury) & when he has Returned the Requisite Certificates of the Landing w.^{ch} he must have without ffee or Reward he has performed his Contract. So that the Contractors Care and Business ends with the Landing as the only Service he performs is giving the Felon his Passage. ditto

It may be Customary for the Contractor to make a Partar Assignm.^t of the Felon (Where he cannot purchase his Liberty or pay the Price of Electing—the Parlar place of his Exile) for a Pecuniary Cons.ⁿ for the 7. or 14. years for which he is Transported. But the Acts do not Enjoyn any Such Assignm.^t the Contractor gives no Security for making such an Assignm.^t, No Certificate is Required of it. Nor will the Contractor Admit the Obligation of Selling every Felon he Transports but only where the Felon cannot Pay the Price of his Redemption from Slavery.

Had Maryland Refused to Receive these Felons, they wo.^d have Done Wrong. Had they Imposed a Tax upon them as Felons payable at Landing they wo.^d have been no less Culpable. Naye Had they made a Law by which these Felons under their new Denomination of Servants had alone been Taxed, there might have been Room to Complain.

The Memorial indeed Intimates That the Maryland Act can only mean to Tax Convicts from the Expression of Servants for Seven Years But had that been the Sole intention of the Act it would have gone further & have Added Serv.^{ts} for 14 years & for Life for there are Felons of each Sort. Whereas the Act Imposes a Duty Indiscriminately upon Servants of all Sorts Whether Imported to Serve for 7 Years or upwards or for a Less Term than 7 Years (by which can never be Understood Convicts) and even upon Negroes.

The Contractor will still have his Certificate upon Landing his Felons without ffee or Reward. The Duty then only becomes payable when the Felon Assumes the new Character of a Serv.^t & the Contractor Receives the fresh Reward for his Serv: & not the Price for his Transportation or Passage.