

C H A P. XLIV. House of his, her, or their Master, Mistress or Dame, without a Note under their Hands, or under the Hand of his or their Overseer, if any be, under the Penalty of being taken for a Runaway, and to suffer such Penalties as are hereafter provided against Runaways.

Servants unlawfully absenting themselves, shall serve, not exceeding ten Days for one, at the Discretion of the County Court, besides Cofts for taking up.

II. **And it is hereby further Enacted,** *by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That any Servant or Servants, unlawfully absenting him, her, or themselves, from his, her, or their said Master, Mistress, Dame, or Overseer, shall make such Satisfaction by Servitude or otherwise, at the Discretion of the Justices of the County Court where such Runaway Servant did dwell, not exceeding Ten Days Service for any One Days Absence; with such reasonable Cost for his, her, or their Taking-up, as the Court shall think fit, be it before or after the Expiration of such Servant's first Time of Servitude, by Indenture or otherwise.

Persons entertaining such Servants or Slaves, forfeit 500^{lb} Tobacco per Night, or 24 Hours. (*But see the Note below.*)

III. **And be it further Enacted,** *by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That any Person or Persons whatsoever, that shall wittingly or willingly entertain any such Servant or Slave, unlawfully absenting him, her, or themselves, as aforesaid, shall be fined Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, for every * Night, or Twenty-four Hours, that such Person or Persons shall give such Entertainment as aforesaid; the one Half to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government, and the other Half to the Informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same; to be recovered in any County Court of this Province, by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint or Information, wherein no Effoin, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

* By 1748, ch. 19, Persons wittingly or willingly entertaining any Servants or Slaves, unlawfully absenting, &c. or permitting them to be about their Houses or Plantations, for One Hour or longer, shall forfeit 100^{lb} Tobacco for each Hour, &c. And Persons unable to pay the Penalty, are punishable by Whipping, and shall give Security for good Behaviour, &c. also Servants or Slaves so offending may be whipped.

Free Negroes or Mulattoes guilty of the same, forfeit 1000^{lb} Tobacco,

or make Satisfaction by Servitude.

IV. **And be it further Enacted,** That if any Free-Negro or Mulatto shall harbour or entertain any such Servant or Slave as aforesaid, in every such Case, he or they so offending, shall forfeit and pay as aforesaid, for every such Offence, the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; the one Half to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, for the Use of the Free-Schools, the other Half to the Party grieved; to be recovered as aforesaid. And if any such offending Negro or Mulatto, hath not an Estate sufficient, wherewith immediately to satisfy and pay such Penalty as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices before whom such Matter is tried, to order Satisfaction, by Servitude, or otherwise, as they shall seem meet.

Persons travelling without Passes (not being able to give a good Account of themselves) may be taken up as Runaways.

V. **And for the better Discovery of Runaways, It is hereby further Enacted,** *by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That any Person or Persons whatsoever, within this Province, travelling out of the County where he, she, or they, shall reside or live, without a Pass under the Seal of the said County, for which they are to pay Ten Pounds of Tobacco, or One Shilling in Money, such Person or Persons, if apprehended, not being sufficiently known, or able to give a good Account of themselves, shall be left to the Discretion and Judgment of such Magistrate or Magistrates, before whom such Person or Persons as aforesaid shall be brought, to judge thereof: And if, before such Magistrate, such Person or Persons so taken up, shall be deemed and taken as a Runaway or Runaways, he, she, or they, shall suffer such Fines and Penalties as are hereby provided against Runaways.

Persons taking them up, shall have 200^{lb} Tobacco.

VI. **And for better Encouragement of all Persons to seize and take up such Runaways, It is hereby further Enacted,** *by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,* That all and every such Person or Persons as aforesaid, seizing or taking up such Runaways, travelling without Passes as aforesaid, not being able to give a sufficient Account of themselves as aforesaid, shall have and receive