

C H A P.  
XLIV.

first had and obtained from such Servant's Master, Mistress, Dame or Overseer, for his so doing, under the Penalty of Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; the one Half thereof to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government, the other Half to the Master, Mistress, or true Owners of such Goods so purloined, bartered, or conveyed away, when proved by sufficient Witness, or Confession of the Party; to be recovered in any Court of Record of this Province, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Effoin, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

If the Value of the Goods exceed 100 lb Tobacco, the Party grieved may have Action of Damage.

XI. **And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,** That if the Goods so traded or bartered for as aforesaid, shall exceed the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco; then the Party or Parties, whose Goods shall be embezzled or bartered away as aforesaid, shall have his Action at Law for the Damage sustained, against the Person or Persons so offending, dealing or bartering for the same; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Offenders not able to pay, may be whipped.

XII. **And in case such Person or Persons so offending,** shall not be able to satisfy the same, then such Person or Persons shall be bound over by some one Justice of the Peace, and put in Security, either to appear at the next Provincial, or County Court, where, upon Conviction by Confession, or sufficient Witness, the Offender shall be punished by Whipping on the bare Back with Thirty Stripes.

Times of Servitude of Imported Servants, without Indentures, settled according to their Ages.

XIII. **And for the ascertaining and limiting Servant's Times of Servitude; Be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,** That whosoever shall transport any Servant into this Province, without Indenture, such Servant, being above the Age of Twenty-two Years, shall be obliged to serve the full Time of Five Years; if between Eighteen and Twenty-two Years, without Indentures, Six Years; if between Fifteen and Eighteen, without Indentures, Seven Years; if under Fifteen, without Indentures, shall serve till he or they arrive at the full Age of Twenty-two Years.

Except Servants from Virginia.

XIV. **And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,** That all Servants transported out of Virginia into this Province, shall compleat their Time of Servitude here, which they ought to have served in Virginia, and no more.

Servants imported without Indentures, to be brought into Court within 6 Months and their Ages adjudged.

XV. **And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,** That every Master, Mistress, Dame, Assignee or Trustee whatsoever, owning or keeping any such Servants as aforesaid, whether by virtue of Transportation, Purchase, or otherwise, shall within Six Months after the receiving such Servants into their Custody, within this Province, (except he, she or they, claim but Five Years Service of such Servants) bring the said Servants into the respective County Courts, where they do inhabit; and every of the said Courts, are hereby authorized to judge and determine of the Age of such Servants so brought, and cause the same to be entered upon Record: And every Owner, as aforesaid, neglecting or refusing to bring such Servant or Servants before the Court as aforesaid, shall not only stand to the Determination of the Court, but also forfeit the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco to the King, his Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government. And if any Master or Servant aforesaid, be grieved with the Determination of the Court, he shall, within the Time determined for their Service, produce an authentic Certificate of such Servant's Age, and shall have Remedy to the Ages aforementioned.

Relief from such Judgment how to be had.

Servitude of imported Servants to commence from

XVI. **And forasmuch as Disputes have formerly arose, at what Time Servants Time of Servitude, whether by Indenture or otherwise, should commence; Be it Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid,** That all