

C H A P. XLIV. Peace; who, hearing the Complaint, shall order such Correction as he shall see fit, not exceeding Thirty-nine Lashes for any one Offence.

Slaves and their Issue shall be Slaves during Life.

XXIII. And be it also Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Negroes, and other Slaves, already imported; or hereafter to be imported into this Province, and all Children now born, or hereafter to be born, of such Negroes and Slaves, shall be Slaves during their natural Lives.

Negroes not entitled to Freedom by being baptized.

XXIV. And forasmuch as many People have neglected to baptize their Negroes, or suffer them to be baptized, on a vain Apprehension that Negroes, by receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, are manumitted, and set free; **Be it hereby further Declared and Enacted**, by and with the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That no Negro or Negroes, by receiving the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, is thereby manumitted or set free, nor hath any Right or Title to Freedom or Manumission, more than he or they had before; any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Ministers, &c. joining any Negro whatsoever or Mulatto Slave to any White Person in Marriage, forfeit 5000  $\text{lb}$  Tobacco.

XXV. And be it further Enacted, That all Ministers, Pastors and Magistrates, or other Persons whatsoever, who according to the Laws of this Province, do usually join People in Marriage, shall not, upon any Pretence, join in Marriage, any Negro whatsoever, or Mulatto Slave, with any White Person, on the Penalty of Five Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, the one Half to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for the Use of Free-Schools, the other Half to the Informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same; to be recovered in any Court of Record of this Province, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoin, Protection or Wager of Law to be allowed.

By the Act of 1717, *ch.* 13,  $\text{§.}$  4, any Free Negro or Mulatto intermarrying with any White Person, shall become a Slave for Life, excepting Mulattoes born of White Women, who shall only become Servants for Seven Years: And any White Man or Woman intermarrying with any Negro or Mulatto, shall become a Servant for Seven Years; to be disposed of at the Discretion of the County Court, and applied towards the Support of the County School.

White Women got with Child by Slaves, or Free Negroes, shall become Servants for 7 Years.

XXVI. And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That any White Woman, whether Free or a Servant, that shall suffer herself to be got with Child by a Negro or other Slave, or Free Negro; such Woman, so begot with Child as aforesaid, if Free, shall become a Servant for and during the Term of Seven Years; if a Servant, shall finish her Time of Servitude, together with the Damage that shall accrue to such Person to whom she is a Servant, by Occasion of any Child or Children begotten as aforesaid, in the Time of her Servitude as aforesaid, and after such Satisfaction made, shall again become a Servant for and during the Term of Seven Years aforesaid.

Any Free Negro begetting such Child, to serve 7 Years. The Children to serve till 31 Years of Age.

XXVII. And if such Begetter of such Child as aforesaid, be a Free Negro, he shall become a Servant, for and during the Term of Seven Years as aforesaid; to be adjudged by the Justices of the County Court where such Fact is committed, according to this Law, in the Clause made and provided against such Servants as have Bastards: And the Issues or Children of such unnatural and inordinate Copulations, shall be Servants until they arrive at the Age of One and Thirty Years.

White Men getting Negro Women with Child, to be subject to the same Penalties.

XXVIII. And any White Man that shall beget any Negro Woman with Child, whether Free Woman or Servant, shall undergo the same Penalties as White Women: All which Times of Servitude, by this Act imposed upon the Persons having so Offended, to be disposed of or employed as the Justices of such County shall think fit, the Produce whereof shall be appropriated towards defraying the County Charge.

By 1728, *ch.* 4, Free Mulatto Women and their Bastard Issue, shall be subject to the same Penalties as White Women and their Issue are, for having Mulatto Bastards by the three preceding Sections: And Free Negro Women having Bastards by White Men and their Issue, shall be subject to the same Penalties. And the Proceedings thereon to be the same as above prescribed.

XXIX. And