

“ son or Persons (who would contract for the Performance of such Trans-
“ portation) and to his and their Assigns, of any such before mentioned
“ Offenders; as also of any Person or Persons convicted of receiving Stolen
“ Goods, knowing them to be Stolen, for the Term of Fourteen Years, in
“ case such Condition of Transportation be general; or else for such other
“ Term or Terms as should be made Part of such Condition, if any parti-
“ cular Time be specified by his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors as afore-
“ said: And that such Person or Persons, so contracting as aforesaid, his or
“ their Assigns, by virtue of such Order of Transfer as aforesaid, should have
“ a Property and Interest in the Service of the said Offenders, for such Term
“ of Years.”

C H A P.
XXIII.

II. **And whereas** by the Statute of the Sixth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty, entitled, *An Act for the further preventing Robbery, Burglary, and other Felonies, and for the more effectual Transportation of Felons*, it is Enacted, Recital of the British Stat. of 6 Geo. I.
“ That all the Powers and Authorities, which are given by the said recited
“ Act of the Fourth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty, to any Court be-
“ fore whom any Felons and Offenders, tried for and convicted of any Of-
“ fence, for which they might be sent or transported to any of his Majesty’s
“ Colonies or Plantations in *America*, should and might be observed and exe-
“ cuted by any other subsequent Court, with like Authority, held for the
“ same County, Riding, Division, or Liberty, were or should be tried or
“ convicted: And that such Court might appoint, if they should think fit,
“ two or more Justices of the Peace of the said County, Riding, Liberty, or
“ Place, where such Offenders were, or should be convicted; who should
“ have Power and Authority to contract with any Person or Persons, for the
“ Performance of the Transportation of such Felons and Offenders, who by
“ Order of such Court or Courts were to be sent to any of the Colonies or
“ Plantations aforesaid, and to order such like sufficient Security to be given,
“ (as the aforesaid recited Act directs, to be taken by Order of Court) and
“ also to cause such Felons, pursuant to such Contract, to be delivered by
“ the respective Goalers, in whose Custody they were, or should be, or
“ might be, to the Person or Persons contracting for the same, or to his or
“ their Assigns.”

III. **And whereas** several Masters of Ships, and other Vessels, importing the said Felons and Offenders into this Province, have neglected to bring any Testimonial of the Offences whereof the said Felons, and Offenders, have been convicted; or whereby it might appear whether they were obliged to serve Seven Years, or Fourteen Years, which hath already occasioned Disputes and Controversies between the Persons entitled to the Service of such Felons, and Offenders, and the Felons and Offenders themselves, concerning their Terms of Servitude, and may occasion many more, as well as give some of the said Felons, and Offenders, opportunities of returning from their Transportation before the Expiration of the Terms they have been or may be transported for, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Statutes. Mischiefs occasioned by the neglect of Masters of Ships in not bringing Testimonials of the Offences of Convicts,

IV. **And whereas** several other Masters of Ships, and Vessels, have imported several Felons, and other Offenders, into this Province, and made private Contracts with such Felons, and Offenders, for a less Time of Servitude than is prescribed by the said Acts, and disposed of the said Felons, and other Offenders, to several of the Inhabitants of this Province, as Servants of good Reputations, and not convict of any Crime or Offences; by which Practices several of the said Felons and Offenders, whose Testimony ought not to be received in any Court of Record, or before any Magistrate, because not known to be such, may be received as Witnesses, to the manifest Danger of the Lives, Liberties, and Properties, of his Majesty’s Subjects of this Province, and the true Intent and Meaning of the said Statutes, is eluded; For the Prevention of which Evils, by the Fraud of others in selling Convicts as reputable Servants, &c.