

C H A P.
XXIII.Masters of
Ships shall
bring Testi-
monials of
their Offen-
ces, and
Time of Ser-
vitude.

Penalty.

V. **Be it Enacted**, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That every Master of a Ship, or Vessel, that shall import any Felons or Offenders, from and after the Tenth Day of November, which shall be in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-nine, shall be obliged to bring an authentic Testimonial of the Offence, or Offences, whereof such Felon or Offender hath been, or shall be convicted, and the Number of Years he, she, or they, are obliged to serve, on Pain of forfeiting the Sum of Five Pounds Current Money of Maryland, for every such Felon or Offender; one Half to the Lord Proprietary, to be applied to defray the Charge of the County wherein such Ship or Vessel shall ride at Anchor, the other Half to him or them who shall sue for the same, to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint, or Information, wherein no Effoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, to be allowed.

And shall
lodge such
Testimonials
with the
County
Clerk.
Penalty.
An attested
Copy thereof
shall be full
Evidence.

VI. **And be it further Enacted**, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That such Testimonial or Testimonials, shall be lodg'd by the Master, or chief Officer of such Ship or Vessel, importing such convicted Persons, with the Clerks of the respective County Courts within this Province, into which such Felons or Offenders shall be Imported and Sold, under the Penalty of Five Pounds for every Offence; to be recovered and applied as aforesaid: And any Copy or Copies of such Testimonial or Testimonials, under the Hand of such County Clerk, shall be received and admitted as full and conclusive Evidence, to prove the Matter therein contain'd.

An Oath to
be taken be-
fore the Na-
val Officer by
every Impor-
ter of Ser-
vants.

VII. **And for the better Discovery** of Felons and other Offenders, **Be it Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons importing or bringing any Servant or Servants into this Province, by Land or by Water, shall be obliged by Virtue of this Act, to declare upon ^h Oath (or Affirmation if a Quaker) to the Naval Officer of the Port or District into which such Servant or Servants shall be imported or brought, "Whether any such Servant or Servants, have been convicted of any Crime, to the Knowledge of the Person or Persons so importing such Servant or Servants, and if any, of what Crime:" And that if it shall appear by the Oath, (or Affirmation if a Quaker) of such Person or Persons, or by any other legal Evidence, that any such Servant or Servants, hath or have been convicted of any Felony, or other Offence; such Felon, or Offender, shall serve the same Term of Years as is prescribed and directed in and by the said Statutes; any private Contract or Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding.

^h The Form of this Oath being too extensive, is altered by the Act of 1729, *ch. 26, viz.*
"Whether to the best of their Knowledge, such Servant or Servants be then under Sentence of Transportation; and if so, for what Offence, and the Term of Years they have to serve."

Penalty on
Importers of
Servants re-
fusing to take
such Oath.Penalty on
Naval Offi-
cers neglect-
ing to admi-
nister the
same.

VIII. **And be it further Enacted**, That any Person importing or bringing any Servants in this Province as aforesaid, and that shall refuse to declare upon Oath (or Affirmation if a Quaker,) whether to his Knowledge, any such Servant hath been convicted of any Felony, or other Offence, shall forfeit the Sum of One Hundred Pounds Current Money, to be recovered to the Uses aforesaid, in Manner and Form aforesaid; and that every Naval Officer, neglecting or omitting to administer such Oath, (or Affirmation if a Quaker) shall for every such Neglect or Omission, forfeit One Hundred Pounds like Money; to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.

False Swear-
ing herein,
to be punish-
ed as Perjury.

IX. **And be it further Enacted**, That any Person or Persons, so to be Sworn, (or Affirm if a Quaker) who shall knowingly forswear him or themselves, or falsely Affirm, shall be liable to be prosecuted for Perjury: And in case of Conviction, shall suffer the same Pains and Penalties as in Cases of corrupt and wilful Perjury.

X. **And**