

lawful meetings, liable to be punished as slaves. or who shall in connection with any slave or slaves, as principal or accessory, be guilty of, and convicted of, any offence for which slaves are now punishable, before a justice of the peace, such free negro or mulatto shall be subject to the same punishment, and be liable in every respect to the same treatment and penalty as slaves thus offending.

Purchasing from negroes forbid Articles mentioned. Without certificate. SEC. 9. *And be it enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to purchase of any free negro or mulatto, or from any slave or slaves, any bacon, pork, beef, mutton, corn, wheat, tobacco, rye, or oats, unless such free negro or mulatto shall, at the time of such sale, produce a certificate from a justice of the peace, or three respectable persons residing in the neighbourhood of said negro, of the county in which such negro resides, that he or they have reason to believe, and does believe, that such free negro or mulatto came honestly and bona fide into possession of any such article so offered for sale, or unless such slave shall produce a written authority from his or her owner, employer or overseer, to sell any such article; and any person thus offending against the provisions of this act, shall be subject to a penalty of five dollars for every such offence, or a penalty equal in amount to the value of the article purchased, should the value thereof exceed the sum of five dollars; the said penalty to be recovered before a single justice of the peace, whose duty it shall be to return the proceedings and judgment thereon to the clerk of the county, to be collected as is herein before provided, one-half to the use of the informer, and the balance to be paid to the levy court, or commissioners, as the case may be, for the use of the county; it shall be the duty of the person charged to retain and produce the certificate of the magistrate, or written authority, in his or her defence, or account for its loss and contents, either by his own oath or some competent witness.

Penalty.

Recoverable.

Duty of accused to retain and produce certificate.

Sale to negroes, of spirituous liquors, gunpowder, &c. forbid. Without specific certificate, if free. SEC. 10. *And be it enacted,* That it shall not be lawful for any retailer, ordinary keeper, or other person, to sell any ardent spirits, gunpowder, shot, or lead, to any free negro, mulatto or slave, without, in the case of a free negro, such free negro shall produce a certificate in the nature of a license or permit, from a justice of the peace in the county in which such free negro may reside, directed to the person so selling the same; or, in case of a slave, unless such slave shall produce a written authority from his owner, employer or overseer, and any person so offending shall be subject to the like penalty, to be recovered and applied in every respect as is provided in the foregoing section of this bill.

Order of master, &c. of a slave. Under penalties. SEC. 11. *And be it enacted,* That the judges of the county courts and Baltimore city court, shall, at their several sessions, have full power and authority as to the continuing or with-

Courts authorized to withdraw