

Petitions for freedom are now regulated by 1796, ch. 67, sec. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

SEC. 31. *And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid,* That if any matter of dispute arises concerning servants imported into this province, or any servant that binds himself for years within this province, or any bound out by the county courts of this province, in relation to their indentures, contracts or wages, or any other matter of difference between the said master and servant, the same shall be tried, heard and determined, by petition as aforesaid, any law, statute or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Disputes to be determined by petition.

SEC. 32. *And be it enacted, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid,* That no negro or other slave within this province shall be permitted to carry any gun, or any other offensive weapon, from off their master's land, without license from their said master; and if any negro or other slave shall presume so to do, he shall be liable to be carried before a justice of peace, and be whipped, and his gun or other offensive weapon shall be forfeited to him that shall seize the same and carry such negro so offending before a justice of peace.

Slaves not to carry guns, &c.

See 1831, ch. 323, sec. 6.

SEC. 33. *And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, by and with the advice and consent aforesaid,* That from and after the end of this session of assembly, any servant or servants whatsoever within this province, that shall feloniously take or purloin his or their master, mistress or dame's goods or chattels, under the value of one thousand pounds of tobacco, shall be adjudged felony, and being thereof lawfully convict in any county court of this province, shall be adjudged to pay four times the value of such goods so purloined, to his or their master, mistress or dame, which he, she or they shall make good by servitude, after the expiration of their first time of service, and shall also suffer such pains of whipping or pilloring as the justices before whom such matter is brought shall adjudge.

Servants stealing to be adjudged felons.

See 1809, ch. 138.

SEC. 34. Deemed inapplicable to our present state of society—as it authorizes the arrest and detention of a white man travelling without a pass.

CHAPTER 46.

AN ACT for the direction of Sheriffs in their offices, and restraining their ill practices within this province.

A supplementary act, 1769, ch. 15.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of his majesty's Governor, Council and Assembly of this province, and the authority of the same,* That no sheriff, under sheriff, or deputy-sheriff, shall seize any tobacco unstript, or seize or mark any merchant's or other's

Sheriff not to seize tobacco unstripped, &c.