

gun, except he be a free negro or mulatto, and in that case he may be permitted to keep one dog, provided such free negro or mulatto shall obtain a license from a justice of the peace* for that purpose, and that the said license shall be in force for one year, and no longer, and if any dog or bitch owned by any negro, not possessed of such license, shall be seen going at large, it shall and may be lawful for any person to kill the same, and in case of any suit instituted therefor, the person or persons killing the said dog or bitch may plead the general issue, and give this act in evidence.

Negroes prohibited from keeping dogs or guns, &c.

*The license to keep a gun, must, by 1831, ch. 323, sec. 6, be granted by the court or corporation.

Sec. 2. Consolidated in 1831, ch. 323, sec. 6.

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the constable of every hundred to repair once a month, and oftener if information be given him of tumultuous meetings of mulattoes, negroes or slaves, to all suspected places within his hundred, and if he shall find any mulatto or negro, not a slave, at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the constable forthwith to carry such mulatto or negro so offending, before some magistrate of the county, who shall thereupon commit such person to the common gaol, unless he or she shall enter into a recognizance, with such security as said justice shall require, for his or her good behaviour, and also to appear before the next county court, to answer for such offence in such manner as is prescribed by law for the trial of crimes and misdemeanours within this state, and if such person shall be found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this act, he shall be fined, or imprisoned, for such offence, at the discretion of the court; and if such constable shall find at any such meeting as aforesaid, any slave besides those belonging to the owner of such place, not having permission in writing from his owner or overseer, it shall be lawful for the constable, and he is hereby authorized and required, to whip every such slave, at his discretion, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes.

Constable to visit suspected places, &c.

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted*, That before any constable shall be entitled to receive the allowance granted by the fourth section of the act,* entitled, an act to prevent the tumultuous meetings and other irregularities of negroes and other slaves, he shall produce a certificate from at least two respectable citizens of his hundred, of his industry and fidelity in the discharge of his duty under this act and the act above recited.

Allowance to constable, how to be paid.

* 1723, ch. 15.

Sec. 5. *And*, for a further encouragement to take up runaways, *Be it enacted*, That in lieu of two hundred pounds of tobacco, allowed by the act,† entitled, an act relating to servants and slaves, any person seizing and taking up such runaways, shall have and receive six dollars.

Allowance for taking up runaways.

† 1715, ch. 44.

See 1715, ch. 44, sec. 7, ante page 26; 1833, ch. 111; and 1834, ch. 161.