

tion to the sheriff, or any constable of the county, to cause to be brought before them the child or children of any pauper or vagrant, and bind them out as apprentices for the time and upon the terms hereinbefore prescribed; *Provided*, the contract of apprenticeship shall, within two months thereafter, be approved by the said Orphans' Court by endorsement thereon as aforesaid, and recorded among the records of the said Orphans' Court.

20. Any father may bind out his child as an apprentice on reasonable terms, for any time not longer than the full age of such child—that is to say, boys till twenty-one, and girls till eighteen years of age; and the terms of such apprenticeship, with the age of the apprentice, shall be contained in an indenture under the hand and seal of the father and master; and the said indenture shall be lodged by the said master with the Register of Wills of the county where such master resides, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of ten dollars, to be recovered and applied as the penalty mentioned in the eighteenth section of this article; and the register shall receive and record the said indenture.

21. Any manufacturer or mechanic may take as an apprentice any male child, until he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years; *Provided*, that the contract so made shall specify the age of the child at the time of making the same, and that the parent or parents of such child, (if living,) or if an orphan, the Orphans' Court of such county as the child shall reside in, shall see the contract within two months after its execution, and notify its approbation thereof by an endorsement on the same; and that the said contract be then recorded among the records of the Orphans' Court; and when so recorded, the said contract shall be of the same validity as if the same had been originally made with the father of said child or with the Orphans' Court.

22. The directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, or any three of them, may bind as apprentices the free male convicts whose times of service in that institution shall expire before they are of age; and may also bind as an apprentice until the age of eighteen years, any free female convict whose term of service shall have ended before she has attained that age. They may also bind as apprentices, until the age of twenty-one for males, and eighteen for females, the children of female convicts brought into the penitentiary with their mothers, or born therein during their time of service; and the manager of the House of Refuge shall