

### Free Negroes.

#### MANUMISSION.

42\*. No slave shall henceforth be manumitted by deed or by last will and testament, nor shall the fact of a negro's going at large and acting as free, or not being claimed by an owner, be considered as evidence of the execution heretofore of any deed or will manumitting the party, or as a ground for presuming freedom; *Provided*, that this section shall not apply to such negroes as may have been heretofore manumitted by deed or by the last will and testament of a deceased person to become free at a period which has not arrived, and who are now in service as slaves for a term of years.

43\*. Any free negro above the age of eighteen years may go before the Circuit Court for the county in which such free negro has resided for three years next preceding such application, or before the Superior Court of Baltimore city if such negro has resided in said city, and after a full examination in open court, by said court, so as to ascertain whether force, fraud, imposition or undue persuasion has been used to induce such application, and upon being perfectly satisfied by such examination, and by any other evidence which the said court may think it proper to inquire, that such application has not been induced by force, fraud, imposition or undue persuasion, the said court may permit such negro to select a master or mistress and become a slave for life to such master or mistress, and shall cause such order to be recorded in perpetual proof of the fact. If such negro shall be a female, her children, if any, under five years of age, shall be included in such order and become slaves, and those above five shall be bound out.

#### IMMIGRATION OF FREE NEGROES.

44. No free negro belonging to, or residing in any other State, district or territory, shall come into this State, whether such free negro intends settling in this State or not, under the penalty of twenty dollars for the first offence; and no free negro shall come into this State a second time, where he has been arrested and convicted under the provisions of this section, under the penalty of five hundred dollars, the one-half of said sum of five hundred dollars to the informer, and the