

enter into such service, on account of improper usage or treatment.

86. If any free negro shall leave the service of his employer after judgment rendered against him, as provided for in this article, or shall fail to return to such service, the employer may take possession of said negro wherever found, and confine him in the public jail for a period not exceeding one week at any time, and may exercise all the power over him that a master may over his free negro apprentice, and the expense of such arrest and imprisonment may be deducted from the wages of such negro; *Provided*, that before the employer shall take possession of such negro under the provisions of this section, if in the peaceable employment of another person, he shall show to such person, or leave at his abode, a copy of the judgment rendered against said negro.

87. No proceeding under this article against free negroes, for a breach of contract of hiring, shall debar such negro from prosecuting any action he may have for cruel and improper usage or treatment by his employer, either before a justice of the peace or court of law.

PETITION FOR FREEDOM.

88. Every petition for freedom shall be filed in the Circuit Court of the county where the petitioner resides, or the Criminal Court of Baltimore, if the petitioner resides in the city of Baltimore, if such residence be with the permission of the owner

89. On the filing of such petition, process shall issue against the owner to compel his appearance, directed to the sheriff of the county where such owner resides, and the sheriff shall serve and return such process.

90. On petitions for freedom, either party shall be entitled to a trial by jury.

91. The owner and petitioner shall each have the right to challenge peremptorily twelve jurors.

92. If any petition for freedom shall be filed and dismissed, and a second petition be filed at the suit of the same party, the court in which such second petition shall be filed, shall order a