

HAP. 207

John and Joseph Die.

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the said negroes, John and Joseph Die, until they shall attain the age of twenty-one years, as apprentices to one or more white male citizens, of Queen Anne's county, upon such terms as to the said court shall seem just and equitable, and that said indentures, when executed, shall be subject in all respects to the laws now in force, or which may hereafter be enacted, in relation to indentures of apprenticeship of minors.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the said Orphans' Court shall bind out the aforesaid negroes, to such white male citizen or citizens as said negroes shall select; *Provided,* that in the judgment of said court the person or persons selected by them, or either of them, shall be suitable to have the control and management of them, or either of them, and shall be willing to comply with such contract or contracts as said court may prescribe; but if in the judgment of said court, the person or persons selected by said negroes, or either of them, shall not be suitable for the purpose aforesaid, or shall fail or refuse to comply with the terms prescribed, then said court is hereby authorised and required to bind out said negroes, as apprentices, to one or more white male citizens of the county aforesaid, to be selected by said court.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That said negroes shall, *be,* and they are hereby granted permission, authorised and empowered, within the period of one year after they may become respectively free from apprenticeship, provided for by this law, to emigrate or remove beyond the limits of this State; and should said negroes, except the permission hereby granted, they shall *be,* and are hereby declared to be free; *Provided,* they shall not again return to the State of Maryland for the purpose of residing therein.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That until the expiration of the said one year after the expiration of said apprenticeship, the said negroes, John and Joseph Die, shall be free, exempt and discharged from all claim and demand of the State of Maryland, and of the visitors or trustees of any free or public school or college in Queen Anne's county, to which the public aid, by law, has been, or may be extended, or of the commissioners of tax for said county; but said exemption shall be without prejudice to the claim or claims of any legatee or representatives of John or Joseph Die, should there be any suit on said claim.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the Orphan's Court of Queen Anne's county, from granting the said negroes an

Act not to pre-
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from granting
annual permit