

Provisoos.

all the power and authority over him as a master may lawfully exercise over his free negro apprentice; the expenses of such arrest and imprisonment may be deducted from the wages of the said negro; *Provided*, a justice of the peace, on hearing of both parties, shall certify that the said negro left the services of the employer without just and sufficient cause; *Provided further*, that a proceeding under this act shall not debar any free negro from prosecuting any action he may have for cruel or ill or improper usage and treatment by his employer, either before a justice of the peace or in the circuit court; *and provided further*, that before the employer shall take possession of the said negro under this section, if found in the peaceable employment of another, he shall exhibit to him, or leave at his abode, a copy of the judgment of the justice of the peace against such negro.

Responsible for employing negro after a conviction,

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That if any person shall hire or employ and take into actual service any free negro convicted under the first section of this act, with a knowledge of such conviction, he shall be answerable in an action of debt to the person entitled to such service for the full value of the service while in his employment, and twenty-five per cent over such value, unless the first employer shall neglect to prosecute for the same for one month after his service was abandoned, in which case no such prosecution shall lie.

Fees.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That the fees of justices, constables and jailors under this act, shall be the same as are provided for in ordinary State cases for misdemeanors, or actions of debt, or contract for claims under fifty dollars, as the case may be.

In force.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after the date of its passage.