

shall be sent from; at which time, and place, which said Publick Notary or other Officer shall be present the Creditors, who shall the said Publick Notary or other publick Officer by the place to be appointed upon the Oath declare that the said Debt or any part thereof is not paid, or that there is not any accounts between the said Creditor and Debtor, or which the said Creditor may be likewise indebted to the Debtor, to the value of the said Debt, or any part thereof for any matter or thing accrued since the time of the date of the said Bond, Bill or Instrument, or whether the said Creditor hath not given to the said Debtor any Release for the same, to be sent together with the proofs under the Hands and Seals of the Publick Notary or other publick Officer thereto appointed, which if the Creditor shall refuse or neglect to perform or do, then the said matter and thing by the said Publick Notary or other Officer so by them certified as aforesaid, shall not be received as Evidence to prove the said Debt. And if the said Creditor be dead, and his Executor or Administrator Sue such Bond, Bill, Account or otherwise Sue any Debtor for the same, the Executor and Administrator in like manner before such Notary Publick or other Officer for that purpose appointed, shall set forth and declare upon their Oath whether or no they have not heard the Creditor in his Life time acknowledge that Debt to be satisfied, or whether or not upon sight of the Creditors Books, Writings or Accounts, they have not seen Credit given to the Debtor since the Day of the making of the said Bills, Bonds, or beginning of the Accounts so Sued for, all which in like manner is to be certified by the publick Notary or other Officer thereunto appointed under his Hand and Seal to be sent along to this Country, together with the Testimony of the Witnesses that have testified to the said Bonds, Bills, Accounts or otherwise, all which if the said Executor or Administrator refuse or neglect to do, then the said matter and thing by the publick Notary or other Officer appointed as aforesaid certified shall not be received in Evidence for valid against the Debtor. Provided though the proofs and Evidences are sufficient that the Plaintiff obtain Judgment for the said Debt, no Execution shall Issue forth against the Defendant until the Original be given up, or delivered up to the Defendant or his Attorney, or sufficient and legal Releases in case the Original be lost.

And Be it further Enacted that all and every the Attorney and Attorneys who shall be employed in the prosecution of such Suits, shall put in security to pay the Defendant all such Costs and Charges as shall be by the said Defendant in that behalf expended, in case the Plaintiff be cast in the Suit.

Provided likewise, That no Bill, Bond, Judgment, Recognizance, Statute, Merchant and of the Staple or other specialty whatsoever that proved and certified as aforesaid shall be good and pleadable, or admitted in Evidence against any Person or Persons of this Province wherein the Debtor and Creditor are both dead, and the Debt, or Thing, or Action above Twelve Years standing.

*An Act for the better Management of the Importation of Negro's into this Province.*

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Several of the good People of this Province have been discouraged to Import into, or purchase within this Province any Negro's or Negro's Slaves, and such as have imported or purchased any such Negro's or Negro's Slaves to the great displeasure of Almighty God, and the prejudice of the Negro's and poor People neglected to instruct them in the Christian Faith, or to cause or permit them to receive the holy Sacrament of Baptism for the Remission of their Sins upon a millake and ungrounded apprehension, that by becoming Christians, they and the Issue of their Bodies are actually manumitted, and discharged from their Servitude and Bondage.

BE IT DECLARED AND ENACTED by the King and Queens their Excellent Majestys, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, That where any Negro or Negro's Slave or Slaves being in Servitude or Bondage, is or shall become Christian or Christians, an Inave, or hath received, or shall at any time receive the holy Sacrament of Baptism, before or after his her or their importation into this Province, or same is not, nor shall, or ought the time to be deemed, adjudged, or taken to be, or amount unto a Manumission or Free, interfering or discharging