

of the party, to be recovered in any Court but by bill plaint or information, wherein no essoye process shall be allowed.

And Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if any goods traded or bartered as aforesaid shall exceed the sum of one thousand pounds, that then the party or parties whose goods shall be imbezled away as aforesaid, shall have his action at law for the damage sustained by the person or persons so offending, dealing & bartering for the same, any Act to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. And in case such person or persons so offending shall not be able to satisfy the same, then such person or persons shall be bound over by some one Justice of the Peace and put in fetters either to appear at the Provincial or County Court whereupon conviction by confession or sufficient witnesses the offender shall be punished by whipping on the bare back with thirty stripes.

And for the ascertaining and limiting of servants times of servitude, Be it Enacted by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, that whosoever shall transport any servant into this Province without Indentures, such servant being above the age of 22 years shall be obliged to serve the full space & term of 5 years, if between 18 and 22 without Indentures 6 years, if between 15 and 18 without Indentures 7 years, if under 15 and without indentures shall serve till he or they arrive at the full age of 22 years.

And Be it further Enacted by the Advice Consent and Authority aforesaid, that all Servants transported out of Virginia into this Province shall compleat their time of servitude here which they ought to have served in Virginia & no more.

And be it further enacted, that every master, mistress or dame, assignee or trustee whatsoever owning or keeping any such servant as aforesaid, whether by virtue of transportation purchase or otherwise, shall within six months after the receiving such servant into their custody within this Province, except he she or they claim but five years service of such servants, bring the said servants into the respective County Courts where they do inhabit, and every of the said Courts are hereby authorized to judge and determine of the age of such servants so bought and cause the same to be entred upon Record, and every owner as aforesaid, neglecting or refusing to bring such servant or servants before the Court as aforesaid, shall not only stand to the determination of the Court, but also forfeit the sum of one thousand pounds of tobacco to the King for the support of government for depriving the Court of their opportunity of viewing the parties, & if any Master or Servant aforesaid be grieved with the determination of the Court, he shall within the time determined for their service produce a certificate authentick of such servants age, & shall have remedy to the ages aforesaid mentioned.

And forasmuch as disputes have formerly arose at what time servants time of servitude whether by Indenture or otherwise should commence, for the better explanation whereof for the future, Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all Servants transported into this Province whether by Indenture or otherwise, the time of service of such Servant so bound or adjudged as aforesaid shall commence from the first anchoring of the Vessel within this Province, any law usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it enacted also by the Advice Consent and Authority aforesaid, that no Indenture made by any Servant during the time of service due by former Indenture or by determination according to the tenor of this Act shall any ways oblige any Servant for longer time than by his first Indenture or determination of the Court shall be limited and appointed, provided that this Act nor any thing therein contained shall not give or be construed to give any benefit to any Negro or Slave whatsoever.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for all such runaway Servants or Slaves that shall be apprehended and taken up in the Province of Pennsylvania or Colony of Virginia, and from thence brought into this Province and delivered to a Magistrate of the County into which they shall be brought, the person for so doing shall have paid and allow'd him by the master or owner of such runaway four hundred pounds of tobacco and cask, or forty shillings in money, upon his producing a certificate from the said Justice or Sherrif of the delivery of such runaway, except servants or runaways brought from Accomack into Somers-