

*Servants and Slaves*

two hundred pounds of tobacco, or more, in the Province of Virginia next the River Potomack, for which said fine they shall make satisfaction when free, by service or otherwise, for one as the Court shall adjudge; But if such person brought and delivered as aforesaid be a freeman and refuse to pay of tobacco or money, then & in such case the Magistrate before brought shall forthwith commit the said person for refusing to provide sufficient security or make full satisfaction by service or otherwise, it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any master mistress or owner of any servant whatsoever, or overseer by the order and consent of any such master mistress or owner shall deny and not provide sufficient meat drink lodging and cloathing, or shall unreasonably burthen them beyond their strength with labour, or debar them of their necessary rest and sleep, the same being sufficiently proved before the Justices of the County Court the said Justices have hereby full power and authority for their first and second offence to levy such fine upon each offender as to them shall seem meet, not exceeding one thousand pounds of tobacco, to the use of his Majesty his Heirs and Successors for the support of Government, and for the third offence to let such Servant so wronged at liberty and free from their servitude.

And be it also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all Negro's & Slaves already imported or hereafter to be imported into this Province, and also all Children now born, or hereafter to be born of such Negro's or Slaves shall be Slaves during their natural lives.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any white woman either free or a servant that shall suffer her self to be begot with child by a Negro or other Slave, or free Negro, such woman so begot with child as aforesaid, if free shall become a servant for and during the term of seven years, if a servant she shall finish her time of servitude together with the damage that shall accrew to such persons to whom she is a servant by occasion of any child or children begotten as aforesaid in the time of her servitude, and if ever such satisfaction made shall again become a servant for & during the term of 7 years aforesaid, & if such begetter of any such child as aforesaid be a free Negro he shall become a servant for & during the term of seven years aforesaid, to be adjudged by the Justices of the County Court where such offence is committed, according to this Law in the clause made and provided against such servants as have bastards, and the issues or children of any such unnatural and inordinant copulations shall be servants until they arrive at the age of 21 years, and any white man that shall beget any negro woman with child whether it be a man or servant shall undergo the same penaltys as white women, all which courses of servitude by this Act imposed on any the persons issue or children of such inordinant copulations shall be taken care of by the Justices of each respective County within this Province, and such servitude to be disposed of or employed as the Justices shall think fit, the produce whereof shall be appropriated to the use of the poor.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every servant woman having a bastard child shall be bound to prove the party charged to be the begetter of such child, and the mother of such child shall only be liable to satisfy the damage to be made by servitude or otherwise as the Court before whom such matter is brought shall think fit for convenience, provided that where the mother of any such bastard child shall be proved her charge by sufficient testimony standing as aforesaid, or by other circumstances agreeing with her in relation to her company, or her pains or blows of travel, & her oath shall be some way made by the Court of the delivery of every such bastard child, either by receiving the same into the parts chargeable a servant to satisfy half the said damage if a freeman then the whole damage, by servitude or otherwise as the Court before whom such matter is brought as aforesaid shall think fit, and if any such mother as aforesaid be able to prove by such testimony or confession of the party charged, that he being a single person & a freeman did before the begetting of such child promise her marriage, that then he shall be at his choice either to perform his promise to her, or to compensate her abuse according as the Court before whom such matter is brought shall adjudge.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, &c. that after the end of this