

mechanics, by obliging said applicants for said orphan or orphans, or other child or children, to sign a good and sufficient indenture to learn said apprentice the occupation that he follows, and to find him in good sufficient cloathing, meat, drink, washing and lodging, and to give such education as masters are obliged to give to apprentices bound by the severall orphan courts of this state; and said indenture, when so taken, shall be lodged with the register of the orphans' court of the county where such indenture is taken, by any one of the trustees of the poor of the said county, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of 3l. for every neglect, to be recovered by presentment in the county court of the county where any such orphan or poor child may be bound, and applied to the use and benefit of the poor of said county, and the register of said orphans' court shall, and he is hereby obliged to receive and record the said indenture as other indentures heretofore taken for orphans bound by the court of said county are and have been recorded, and the said clerk shall be allowed 3s. current money for each and every indenture so received and recorded, to be paid by the master.—*Ibid.* §. 5.

5. It shall be lawful for any manufacturer or mechanic to take as an apprentice any male child until he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years; provided that the contract so made shall specify the age of the child at the time of making the said contract, and the parent or parents of such child, if living, or if an orphan, the orphans' court of such county as the child shall reside in, shall see the contract within two months after its execution, and notify their approbation thereof by an endorsement on the same, and then the said contract shall be recorded among the records of the orphans' court, and 3s. shall be paid by the master of the said apprentice therefor, and shall be of the same validity as if originally made with the parents of the said child, or with the orphans' court.—*Ibid.* §. 6.

6. The justices of the county or criminal courts, on the petition in writing, of any master or mistress of any apprentice so bound out, shall and may inquire into, hear, and determine any and every dispute that may arise on any contract or agreement so as aforesaid made; and if it shall appear to the said county or criminal court, that the said contract has been violated on the part of the master or mistress, or that the complaint of such apprentice so petitioning is well founded, the said court may proceed to fine the said master or mistress, according to the offence, a sum not exceeding 10l. current money for the first offence, for the second offence a sum not exceeding 20l. current money; and the said county or criminal court may, in their discretion, discharge any apprentice because of imposition, or of the ill behaviour of the master or mistress, or of the hardness or unreasonableness of the terms of the contract, and shall provide for the said apprentice a new master of the same trade or occupation with the first, and if the original contract was hard