

after leaving this state shall again return within 6 months, may be again taken up and carried before some judge or justice of the peace, who may commit the said free negro, &c. to the common gaol of the county; and in case such person or persons, so committed, shall not within 20 days thereafter, pay his or her prison charges, it shall be lawful for the sheriff of such county wherein such person or persons shall have been committed, with the approbation of any two justices of the peace of such county, to sell such person or persons to serve for a period of time not exceeding 6 calendar months, and the money therefrom arising, after payment of the charges arising from such commitment and confinement to pay over unto the justices of the levy courts of the respective counties, for the use of said counties.—*ibid.* § 20.

62. No petition or petitions for freedom shall hereafter originate in the general court of either shore, but shall commence and be tried only in the county where such petitioner or petitioners shall reside, under the direction of his, her or their master, mistress or owner; and the court of the county in which such petition or petitions shall be preferred, shall have full power to issue process against such master, &c. for the purpose of compelling his or her appearance, directed to the sheriff of the county where such person or persons shall reside, and such sheriff shall serve and return such process, in the same manner as if issued by the county court of his county, and in case of neglect or delay in such sheriff to execute and return such process, he may be fined by the court issuing the same.—*ibid.* § 21.

63. In all petitions now depending, or hereafter commenced, for freedom, either the petitioner or defendant may apply to the court for the benefit of a trial by jury, and the court shall thereupon charge, as the law directs the attending jury, to determine each and all of the allegations contained in the said petition, which may be controverted.—*ibid.* § 22.

64. There shall be no appeal from the judgment of the county court upon such petitions, except as to matters of law, where the facts shall have been tried by a jury, and the master, &c. of such petitioner, or the petitioner, at the election of either, shall have the right of appeal as to matter of law only, and to take bills of exception in all cases so tried to the general court of their respective shore.—*ibid.* § 23.

65. Either the master, &c. of such petitioner, or the petitioner, shall have the right and privilege of challenging peremptorily to the number of 12 jurors impannelled to try the facts in issue, and for want of a sufficient number of jurors remaining upon the original pannel, a *tales* at the prayer of either party, shall be awarded by the court to try the said issue or issues.—*ibid.* § 24.

66. In all cases of petitions for freedom hereafter to be instituted in
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