

1715. APRIL.

GEORGE I.

C H A P.  
XLIV.  
Penalty for ab-  
senting them-  
selves.

III. AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid*, That any servant or servants, unlawfully absenting him, her or themselves, from his, her or their said master, mistress, dame or overseer, shall make such satisfaction by servitude, or otherwise, at the discretion of the justices of the county court where such runaway servant did dwell, not exceeding ten days service for any one day's absence, with such reasonable cost for his, her or their taking up, as the court shall think fit, be it before or after the expiration of such servant's first time of servitude by indenture or otherwise.

On persons en-  
tertaining  
them, &c.

IV. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid*, That any person or persons whatsoever, that shall wittingly or willingly entertain any such servant or slave unlawfully absenting him, her or themselves as aforesaid, shall be fined five hundred pounds of tobacco for every (a) night, or twenty-four hours, that such person or persons shall give such entertainment as aforesaid, the one half to his majesty, his heirs and successors, for the support of government, and the other half to the informer, or him or them that shall sue for the same, to be recovered in any county court of this province by action of debt, bill, plaint or information, wherein no effoin, protection or wager of law to be allowed.

(a) By 1748, ch. 19, persons wittingly or willingly entertaining any servants or slaves, unlawfully absenting, &c. or permitting them to be about their houses or plantations, for one hour or longer, shall forfeit 100lb. tobacco for each hour, &c. and persons unable to pay the penalty, are punishable by whipping, and shall give security for good behaviour, &c. also servants or slaves so offending may be whipped.

And on free  
negroes for  
harbouring  
them, &c.

V. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any free negro or mulatto shall harbour or entertain any such servant or slave as aforesaid, in every such case, he or they so offending shall forfeit and pay as aforesaid, for every such offence, the sum of one thousand pounds of tobacco, the one half to our sovereign lord the king, his heirs and successors, for the use of the free-schools, the other half to the party grieved, to be recovered as aforesaid; and if any such offending negro or mulatto hath not an estate sufficient wherewith immediately to satisfy and pay such penalty as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the justices before whom such matter is tried to order satisfaction, by servitude or otherwise, as they shall seem meet.

Certain per-  
sons may be  
taken up, &c.

VI. AND, for the better discovery of runaways, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid*, That any person or persons whatsoever within this province, travelling out of the county where he, she or they shall reside or live, without a pass under the seal of the said county, for which they are to pay ten pounds of tobacco, or one shilling in money, such person or persons, if apprehended, not being sufficiently known, or able to give a good account of themselves, shall be left to the discretion and judgment of such magistrate or magistrates before whom such person or persons as aforesaid shall be brought, to judge thereof, and if, before such magistrate, such person or persons so taken up, shall be deemed and taken as a runaway or runaways, he, she or they, shall suffer such fines and penalties as are hereby provided against runaways.

Allowance for  
taking up run-  
aways, &c.

VII. AND, for better encouragement of all persons to seize and take up such runaways, IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid*, That all and every such person or persons as aforesaid, seizing or taking up such runaways, travelling without passes as aforesaid, not being able to give a sufficient account of themselves as aforesaid, shall have and receive two hundred pounds of tobacco, to be paid by the owner of such runaway servant, negro or slave, so apprehended and taken up; and if such suspected runaway or runaways be not servants, and refuse to pay the same, he, she or they, shall make satisfaction by servitude, or otherwise, as the justices of the provincial and county courts where such person shall be so apprehended and taken up shall think fit.

Reward to In-  
dians.

VIII. AND, For the better discovery of, and encouragement of our neighbour Indians to seize, apprehend or take up, any runaway servants or slaves, and bring them before a magistrate, they shall, for a reward, have a match-coat paid him or them, or the value thereof, which said reward shall be paid and satisfied by the county where such person shall be so apprehended; and such runaway, if not a slave, to reimburse the said county by servitude, or otherwise, as the justices of the provincial or county court shall think fit.

Persons appre-  
hended, how to  
be disposed of,  
&c.

IX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid*, That at what time soever any of the said persons, runaways, shall be seized by any person or persons within this province, such person or persons so apprehending or seizing the same, shall bring, or cause him, her or them, to be brought before the next magistrate, or justice of the county where such runaway is apprehended, who is hereby empowered to take into custody, or otherwise him, her or them, to secure and dispose of, as he shall think fit, until such person or persons, so seized and apprehended, shall give