

C H A P.  
XLIV.

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 brought, and cause the same to be entered 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, his heirs and successors, for the support of government; and if any master or servant aforesaid be grieved with the determination of the court, he shall, within the time determined for their service, produce an authentic certificate of such servant's age, and shall have remedy to the ages aforesaid.

Servitude to  
commence  
from anchor-  
ing.

XVII. AND, forasmuch as disputes have formerly arose at what time servants time of servitude, whether by indenture or otherwise, should commence, BE IT ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That all servants transported into this province, whether by indenture or otherwise, and so bound or adjudged as aforesaid, shall commence their time of servitude from the first anchoring of the vessel within this province.

Provido.

XVIII. PROVIDED, That the said vessel tarry not above fourteen days after her entry within the capes, and her first anchorage in this province; and all the days such ship or ships shall tarry in Virginia above fourteen days, shall be adjudged part of the service of such servant which shall be afterwards brought into Maryland, and there sold; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certain inden-  
tures to be void.

XIX. AND BE IT ALSO ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That every indenture made by any servant, during the time of his service by former indenture, or judgment of the county court, according to the tenor of this act, shall be void, and not any ways oblige any servant for longer time than by his first indenture or judgment of the court shall be limited and appointed.

Owners to pay  
for servants  
taken up, &c.

XX. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority, advice and consent 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 allowed him, by the master or owner of such runaway, four hundred pounds of tobacco and cash, or forty shillings in money, upon his producing a certificate from the justice or sheriff of the delivery of such runaway, except servants or runaways brought from Accomack into Somerset county, for such only two hundred pounds of tobacco, or twenty shillings, and the like from that side of Virginia next the river Patowmack; for which said sum or sums paid, such runaway shall make satisfaction when free, by service or otherwise, besides what shall be adjudged as a recompence for the absence of such runaway servant as aforesaid, as the court shall adjudge; but if such person, so apprehended, brought and delivered as aforesaid, be a free man, and refuse to pay such sum or sums of tobacco or money, then and in such case the magistrate before whom he or she shall be brought shall forthwith commit the said person so refusing to prison, till he or she give sufficient security, or make full satisfaction by servitude or otherwise.

Penalty on  
masters for not  
providing food,  
&c.

XXI. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, by the authority aforesaid, That if any master or mistress of any servant whatsoever, or overseer by order or consent of any such master or mistress, 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, or excessively beat and abuse them, or shall give them above ten lashes for any one offence, the same being sufficiently proved before the justices of the county courts, the said justices have hereby full power and authority for the first and second offence to levy such fine upon such 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 set such servant so wronged at liberty, and free from servitude; but in case the master or owner of any such servant shall think that he or they deserves greater correction, then the said master or owner of such servant or servants shall or may carry them before any justice of the peace, who, hearing the complaint, shall order such correction as he shall see fit, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes for any one offence.

Slaves, &c. to  
be slaves for  
life.

XXII. AND BE IT ALSO ENACTED, by the authority aforesaid, That all negroes and other slaves already imported, or hereafter to be imported into this province, and all children now born, or hereafter to be born, of such negroes and slaves, shall be slaves during their natural lives.

XXIII. AND,