

Justices are hereby directed, in all cases where they can, to make it a part of the contract on the part of the master or mistress of such apprentice, that he or she shall give such orphan child reasonable education in reading and writing, or in reading, writing and arithmetic, to be particularised therein, and also teach such orphan, especially if a male, some useful art or trade, and in all cases supply suitable cloathing and maintenance; and the said justices shall and may also bind out as apprentices, such children as are suffering through the extreme indigence or poverty of their parents, also the children of beggars, and also illegitimate children, and the children of persons out of this state, where a sufficient sustenance is not afforded, in like manner, and on like terms; provided always, that when any child is about to be bound out, the parent or parents of said child, if living in the county, shall be summoned to appear before the said justices, and the inclination of the said parent or parents, so far as is reasonable, shall be consulted in the choice of the person to whom the said child shall be bound out; and provided always, that when any child shall be before the court for the purpose of being bound out as an apprentice, if any relation or other person will, with good and sufficient security, enter into bond in the penalty of one hundred pounds, for the due and comfortable maintenance, and for the providing sufficient and proper cloathing for such child till of age as aforesaid, and also for the reasonable schooling and education of such child, then the court shall not proceed to bind out such child as aforesaid.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any one or more of the justices of the peace may take any child or children who is or are destitute, or suffering for want of support, or the child or children of beggars, and place the same in the care of some proper person or persons until the next meeting of the orphans court, when the said child or children shall be bound out as apprentices by the said orphans court as aforesaid; and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said orphans court to make such an allowance as to them shall seem reasonable for the expence incurred by supporting as aforesaid the said child or children, and the same shall be levied on and paid by the county to which such child or children shall belong, except the person or persons who have had the care of such child or children, or some other person or persons can be found who will agree to take the said child or children as an apprentice or apprentices as aforesaid, and pay the expence incurred as aforesaid.

And place out destitute children, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any father may bind out his child as an apprentice, on reasonable terms, for any time not longer than till the full age of such child; that is to say, boys to twenty-one, and girls to sixteen years of age, and that the terms of such apprenticeship, with the age of the apprentice, shall be contained and expressed in an indenture, under the hand and seal of the father and master; and that the said indenture shall be lodged by the said master with the register of the orphans court of the county where such master resides, within thirty days after the execution thereof, under the penalty of three pounds current money, to be recovered from said master by indictment in the county court or criminal court of said county, and to be applied to the use and benefit of the poor of said county; and the register of the said orphans court shall and he is hereby obliged to receive and record the said indenture, and he shall be allowed the sum of three shillings current money for each and every indenture so recorded, to be paid by the said master.

Any father may bind out his child, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for the trustees of the poor of any county in this state, or for any three of them, to bind out any orphan or orphans, or other poor child or children, under their care in the poor-house of said county, to any discreet person applying for said orphan or orphans, or poor child or children, always having a regard to give a preference to tradesmen and 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 and sufficient cloathing, meat, drink, washing and lodging, and to give such education as masters are obliged to give to apprentices bound by the several 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 three pounds for every neglect, to be recovered by presentment in the county court of the county where any such orphan or poor child shall 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 the sum of three shillings current money for each and every indenture so received and recorded, to be paid by the master.

Trustees may bind out orphans, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may 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 always,

Manufacturer, &c. may take apprentice, &c.