

Offenders to several of the Inhabitants of this Province, as Servants of good Reputations, and not convict of any Crime or Offences; by which Practices, several of the said Felons, and Offenders, whose Testimony ought not to be received in any Court of Record, or before any Magistrate, because not known to be such, may be received as Witnesses, to the manifest Danger of the Lives, Liberties, and Properties, of his Majesty's Subjects of this Province; and the true Intent and Meaning of the said Statutes, is eluded: For the Prevention of which Evils,

*Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the Same,* That every Master of a Ship, or Vessel, that shall import any Felons, or Offenders, from and after the Tenth Day of November, which shall be in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Nine, shall be obliged to bring an authentick Testimonial of the Offence, or Offences, whereof such Felon, or Offender, hath been, or shall be convict; and the Number of Years, he, she, or they, are obliged to serve; on Pain of forfeiting the Sum of Five Pounds current Money of Maryland, for every such Felon or Offender; One Half to the Lord Proprietary, to be applied to defray the Charge of the County wherein such Ship, or Vessel, shall ride at Anchor, the other Half to him or them who shall sue for the same; to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information; wherein no Esloyn, Protection, or Wager of Law to be allowed.

*And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid,* That such Testimonial, or Testimonials, shall be lodg'd by the Master, or chief Officer of such Ship, or Vessel, importing such convicted Persons, with the Clerks of the respective County-courts within this Province, into which such Felons, or Offenders, shall be Imported and Sold; under the Penalty of Five Pounds for every Offence; to be recovered and applied as aforesaid: And any Copy, or Copies, of such Testimonial, or Testimonials, under the Hand of such County Clerk, shall be received and admitted as full and conclusive Evidence, to prove the Matter therein contain'd. And for the better Discovery of Felons, and other Offenders,

*Be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* That all Persons importing or bringing any Servant, or Servants, into this Province, by Land or by Water, shall be obliged by Virtue of this Act, to declare upon Oath (or Affirmation if a Quaker) to the Naval Officer of the Port or District into which such Servant, or Servants, shall be imported or brought, whether any such Servant, or Servants, have been convicted of any Crime, to the Knowledge of the Person or Persons, so importing such Servant, or Servants; and if any, of what Crime: And that if it shall appear, by the Oath (or Affirmation if a Quaker,) of such Person or Persons, or by any other Legal Evidence, that any such Servant, or Servants, hath or have been convict of any Felony, or other Offence, such Felon, or Offender, shall serve the same Term of Years as is prescribed and directed, in and by the said Statutes: Any private Contract or Agreement to the contrary, notwithstanding.

*And be it further Enacted,* That any Person importing or bringing any Servants in this Province, as aforesaid, and that shall refuse to declare upon Oath (or Affirmation, if a Quaker,) whether to his Knowledge, any such Servant hath been convict of any Felony, or other Offence, shall forfeit the Sum of One Hundred Pounds current Money; to be recovered to the Uses aforesaid, in Manner and Form aforesaid: And that every Naval Officer, neglecting or omitting to administer such Oath, (or Affirmation, if a Quaker) shall for every such Neglect or Omission, forfeit One Hundred Pounds, like Money; to be recovered and applied as aforesaid.

*And be it further Enacted,* That any Person or Persons, so to be sworn, (or affirm if a Quaker) who shall knowingly forswear him, or themselves,