

XIV. **And** be it enacted, That the following species of personal property shall be valued at the respective sums following, to wit: every male and female slave from eight to fourteen years of age, twenty-five pounds current money; and every male slave from fourteen to forty-five years of age, seventy pounds like money; and every female slave from fourteen to thirty-six years of age, sixty pounds like money; and silver plate eight shillings and four-pence like money per ounce; and the other articles of personal property shall be left to the discretion and judgment of the several commissioners, who shall estimate the same at its present actual worth in ready money, in coin, at the value ascertained and made current by law. Provided, that the said commissioners shall be at liberty, and are hereby directed, to estimate male slaves, who are tradesmen, at such value as they may adjudge them to be worth, regarding their respective trades and their proficiency therein, and the annual value arising therefrom; and also male and female slaves under eight years of age, and male slaves above the age of forty-five years, and female above the age of thirty-six years, to a true proportioned value to male and female slaves above or under those ages; and if any slave shall not be perfect in his limbs or sight, or from the want of health, or any visible infirmity, shall be rendered incapable to perform his usual and proper labour, the commissioners shall make a reasonable abatement for such cause, and shall note the same in his return.

C H A P.
XVII.
Valuation of
property, &c.

XV. **And**, Whereas it may be just and reasonable in some cases to vary from the quantity of acres contained in the patent or deed by which the present possessor holds the same, **Be it enacted**, That where the commissioners shall know, or be informed and have good reason to believe, that there is surplus land held under the patent or deed, it shall and may be lawful, and they are hereby required to call on the person to whom the land is assessed, to ascertain the quantity of such land; and the said commissioners may, in their discretion, for the better ascertaining the quantity thereof, administer an oath (or affirmation if a quaker, menonist or dunker) to such person, to discover his knowledge or belief, touching the quantity of such land; and the party so to be assessed shall, and he is hereby obliged to take such oath or affirmation as aforesaid, and answer thereon as to the quantity of such land to the best of his knowledge and belief, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money for every neglect or refusal; and where any person assessed holds less than the quantity specified in the patent or deed, it shall and may be lawful for the party assessed, to ascertain the quantity by oath or affirmation as aforesaid, or otherwise to prove the same to the satisfaction of the commissioners, who shall allow for such deficiency.

Commission-
ers may vary
from patent,
&c.

XVI. **And**, Whereas some of the people called quakers, menonists, or dunkers, are principled against bearing arms in any case, or contributing property for supporting any war, and therefore refuse to give in any account for their property, and this general assembly are willing to make allowance for the real weaknesses of men as far as the public good will permit, **It is hereby provided and enacted**, That where the refusal or neglect of any quaker, menonist, or dunker, to give in his property, shall be returned to the commissioners, and the commissioners believe that such person is a friend to the present government, and that his refusal or neglect proceeds from scruples of conscience only, they

Proviso.