

The honourable	{	Coll. Blackstone	}	Coll. Brown,
		Coll. Jorles		Captain Addison
		Coll. Robosham		Mr. Brooks
		Coll. Granberry		Captain Courts

Sent by Mr. Brooks to the house these following Bills V. for Annulling Court Days in each County, against excessive usury, for Encouragement of Tillage & for Recording the Journal of the house, for preventing Vexatious and unnecessary Suits at Law, Concerning Negroes & Slaves &c.

The Board proceeds to reading Several Bills before them Viz.

An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion in this Province / Indorsed Viz. / read and passed first reading, read here first time / Remark / The Ministers to be one of the Vestry according to his Excellency's Instructions and a clause to be inserted empowering the Vestrymen with the Advice and Assistance of the Commissioners to purchase and procure one or more Glebes in a County and in such places as there shall be occasion, or they shall see convenient Viz. One Glebe in a Parish each Glebe to consist of fifty Acres of Land at the least and not under —

Mr. Gench and Captain Addison Nominated to Join in Committee with those appointed by the house —

Came Mr. Dent & Mr. Clark from the house with the Act Concerning Negroes and Slaves, they are Ordered by the house to speak to the same

As to the Indorsement of this Board they humbly conceive the Sense of their house in the said Act may be Mistaken, by the Board and they desire to explain the same.

The Penalty expressed in the latter Clause of the Act being 10000 Tobacco for such as should presume to marry the Parties 10000 of Tobacco for the Master that shall suffer or connive at the same, and the Slave to be free, they conceive to be Penalty sufficient & may answer the design of preventing such Mungrell Marriages. —

As to the word Slavery they do not use it in the Act, but Oblige all white Women that shall marry to Negro Men to be Servants during the Life of the Man whom they marry although it may haply amount to Slavery in Effect, yet is it not the same in Termis, and may possibly prove otherwise, so that the Law of England is contrary

Then as for the Children of such they say that Bastard Children born of white or English Women whose parents are not able to Maintain them, are by the Law of the Country to be bound out till they come to 31 years of age: and they conceive it but reasonable to make a Distinction between them and Negroes, and not to equalize them in point of servitude.

As to the relief of Negroes and Slaves against the Severity and Barbarous Usage of unreasonable Masters &c. they say they have provided for this end by an Act drawn up particularly for that purpose wherein they have also Mannered (as in the Bill) —

Brought also by the aforesaid Mr. Dent and Mr. Clark  
 Religion &c. An Act for the Elections of Members in the General Assembly in the year 1692 Read first time. —

The Act Touching Indians read here second time / remark / this ought to be read in the year 1692

Came Mr. Boonoy & Mr. Hostins, from the house with the several Bills