

An act for publique Recompence to the Masters of Slaves putt to death by Law.

Whereas it may fall out upon this Island as it hath done in other places where the Number of Slaves is increased to great Multitudes that Divers Unreasonable and Offencious acts punishable by death both by the Lawes of England, & Statutes of this Island, may be by the Slave or Slaves of ~~the~~ some person or other perpetrated & Committed whereby, the Law cannot be Satisfied, without the death of such Slave or Slaves & whereas it may fall out, that not only great Damages but other Undoing may happen thereby to some Innocent person whose greatest Maintynance or Livelihood doth or may arise from the Life & Labour of such Slave or Slaves, & besides it may fall out that for feare of such Losse some Dishonour of God the Hazard of the forfeiture of his owne Life & the losse & publique prejudice of the whole Colony or many good Members thereof, for the prevention whereof & better discourages of all such Capital Crimes that by any Slave or Slaves may or shall be Committed

Be it therefore declared Ordained & Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that if any Slave or Slaves belonging to or appertaining to any person or persons upon this Island shall by due order of Law be Committed, Condemned and Executed for any fault whatsoever the Master or Proprietor of the said Slave or Slaves so Condemned & Executed, shall have & receive for every Slave so Executed, & to him or them belonging such a Vallew out of the publique Treasurie as two indifferent Men shall Judge Award Esteeme & Vallew the Slave or Slaves att /

Allwaies provided that if any Master or Proprietor shall be Consulting or any way accessary to any such Crime or Crimes by his Slaves or Slaves so Committed or after knowledge or hearing of any such act, shall not within Twenty flower bowes discover the same to the Governour or some of the Councill or some other Justice or officer of the peace of this Island hee shall not only loose his ~~priviledges~~ Priviledges & Benefitt & Satisfaction by this Statute appointed but shall be indicted and tryed as an accessary to, & fact avording to the Lawes & Statutes of the Kingdom of England in such cases provided and being thereof Lawfully convicted shall suffer by losse of Life Member or otherwise by fine & Imprisonment avording to the Quality of his offences, dated the 21. octob. 1669

J. Willoughby

Jeremiah Matthews Speaker.
Francis St Johns. Sec.

Recorded the 20th octob. 1669 at Ju. Hodge C. J. Sec.

Jas. Vernon Sec.

21 Oct. 1669.