

Abstract for the better Govern-
ment of Slaves and Free Negroes

Be it enacted by His Excellency Christopher Codrington
Esq. the Chief Governor by and with the advice and consent of the
Council and assembly of this Island that no Person whatsoever shall
give leave on the Sabbath day to any Slave under his, or her care,
charge, or Ownership unless such as usually waits on their
Person, or in Liveryes, to go out of their Plantations without
a ticket, or white Servant with them. in which ticket it shall
expressed the name, and number, and also to and from what place
on penalty of paying for taking up such Slave or Slaves as
Runn away) three Shillings. and Be it further enacted
by the authority aforesaid that any Person who shall take up any
Slave or Slaves belonging to another; and shall keep said Slave
or Slaves in his or their custody, or Plantation longer than twenty four
hours without sending the said Slave, or Slaves to the Owner or
Owners they belong to, if he or they can any wise know them, or in
selling said Slave, or Slaves to the Provost Marshall of this
Island for the time being, shall for every day each Slave shall be
kept, or entertained by him, or them after the first twenty four
hours, forfeit twelve Shillings per diem. And if the said Slave,
or of any Slaves, twenty four Shillings per diem, for each day such
Slave, or Slaves shall be by him or them knowingly entertained or
employed. If under six pounds, to be recovered before any two Justices
at law and by the order of Courts is directed for Servants recovering their
wages to be within the month of August, and March; if above by action
of Debt at Common Law, in w^{ch} no protection shall be allowed
of Law shall be allowed and if any Person shall privately detain
entire, or persuade any Slave or Slaves being in quiet possession of
another, out of his or their custody, by any encouragement or
means whatsoever, shall be liable to the same penalty of every day the
said Slave, or Slaves shall by their means, or procurement, be
their owners or Masters carried, or meant of entertaining and run-
away longer than twenty four hours, to be recovered of the
same manner. But means any Person shall unlawfully, or by force,
or otherwise take any Persons Slave, or Slaves out of his, or their
Plantation, or custody shall be deemed guilty of Robbery and
indicted as in case of Robbery. And means any Person or Persons
shall take any Slave, or Slaves, or endeavour to carry off from
this Island, or send away from their Owners, shall be guilty

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of the King, and excluded the benefit of his Pardon. And be-
 further enacted by the authority aforesaid that any Person who
 shall deal with any Slave, or Slaves for any Sugar, Cotton or tobacco
 or any other goods whatsoever without leave given from the
 Owner of said Slave or Slaves, or such by writs, or some white Person
 which note or white Person shall specify what goods he shall so-
 sell, and the quantity, and what name or names he shall deal with any
 Slave otherwise than as is before directed under the penalty that
 such Person so offending shall be found over by the next Justice to
 the good behaviour until the next Sessions of the Peace or general
 Sessions, and three to be fined, or receive such other punishment
 as the Justice shall think convenient. And that all Negroes who
 shall (though with a ticket, or other leave from their Owners or pro-
 posors) sell any thing in any of the Towns on the Lord's day, he or
 they shall be taken up, and whipped, and paid for a Sunday, if
 not returned, or going to their respective Masters by ten of the Clock,
 to the intent that all opportunities of idleness, and Robbery may be
 taken away. And if any Chubby Slave should impudently strike
 or offend any white Person, any Justice upon complaint, or proof
 made, shall order a cartable to carry such Slave to the Colliery
 whipt at their discretion. And if any such Person in any way
 hurt, wounded or disfigured by any Slave's resistance, such offend-
 ing Slave or Slaves shall lose their nose, Ears, or any member cut
 off, or be punished with death at the discretion of two Justices, al-
 though excepting that such Slave do not the same by his or her
 owner, or Masters order, or in defence of his or her Person or goods.
 And it shall be lawful for all Persons to take away from any Slave
 any hurtfull clubs, or other mischievous weapons whatsoever, unless
 such Slave or Slaves have good charge of their owners, or Masters
 goods to defend. And be it enacted by the authority
 aforesaid that the Sheriffe Marshall of this County, or Deputy shall
 be obliged to receive all Run aways brought to him, into his custody,
 and shall pay the Bringer three Shillings for taking said Run away,
 and more if more miles as said Negro is brought to the good
 from the Place taken at. And the said Marshall is to keep the said
 Slave or Slaves in safe custody, and in a list at the Prison door
 shall insert the names of Negroes in his custody, their age, and their true
 names (if known) against the said Negroes names belonging to
 him. And in case the said Marshall fails to pay the said Bringer, or
 receive the Slave or Slaves brought, or to put up their names, he shall
 forfeit five pounds for every such fault, to be recovered by the
 Justice

Justice. And meane Morice Marshall shall wilfully or
 negligently suffer an escape any way whatsoever of the Slave
 by him received, or employ him in any work, he shall pay the
 Owner as much of any Persons detaining another Slave above
 twenty four hours, until such Slave is delivered the Owner or
 possessor fifty pounds Current money. And meane any Slave
 perished in custody for want, he shall forfeit fifty pounds like money.
 The Marshall to have three Shillings for taking each Slave into custody
 and to have more each twenty four hours the Slave lies in prison
 as above upon the Marshall's delivery of any Slave or Slaves to the
 Owner, or possessor for the Sum of three Shillings, besides nine pence per
 mile which the Driver of said Slave or Slaves has received from
 the Governor Marshall, or his Deputy. And if any Slave, or Slaves
 as long as three moneths, such Slave or Slaves are sold taken and
 sold at outcry for the Use, by order of two Justices of the
 Peace, and the overplus, if any be, after the paying the aforesaid
 Fees, and all above the above mentioned charges shall be returned
 to the Owner, and for want of knowing such Owner to the Treas.
 for the time being, to remain to the use of the Publick till the
 Owner shall appear. And the Governor Marshall or his Deputy
 shall be obliged upon oath to account and pay once every year
 at least unto the Treasurer for the time being, all such monies, and
 Negro Slave, or Slaves, or other Slaves shall be sold for, or forfeited
 for every such neglect for not accounting and paying the said
 money when not Owner is to be found, after his just Fees and
 charges of Sale are deducted, twenty pound for the use of the
 Publick of this Island, to be recovered as hereafter set down in
 this act. And be it alsoe enacted by the authority
 aforesaid, that any Person taking up a Runaway and know-
 ing his Master, either by the Slaves confession or otherwise, shall
 on penalty of forfeiture of forty Shillings carry such Slave
 so known, or cause him to be carried to his Master, or owner,
 and not to the goals, or Marshall, unless the owner be unknown
 to him, and if any owner or Master shall refuse to pay three Shil-
 lings for taking such Slave up, and nine pence per mile for the distance
 he was taken up at (being brought to him) shall forfeit the said
 forty Shillings. And if any Marshall or Deputy shall deny
 to deliver any Slave in his custody on tender of his due Fees, and
 moneys, he shall lose his Fee, and forfeit forty Shillings besides each
 day detained, and pay as much of detaining another Slave for each
 day detained. And it is further enacted by the authority
 aforesaid

aforesaid, that on complaint made to any Justice of
 any crime done by any Slave, or Slaves, Such Justice shall first by
 warrant for apprehending the offender, and for all Courtiers, if
 Justice find such crime not capital, he may appoint such cor-
 rection of such Slave according to discretion, & award satisfacti-
 on to the Parties injured, not exceeding Six pounds. But if the
 crime be heinous, or the damage ^{then this Justice shall commit the offender to prison} greater than Six pounds, or take
 Security at his discretion, and then appoint a day for the witness
 to appear. Which crime day and time. Such Justice is to certify to
 the next neightning justice, who shall join with the aforesaid
 Justice at the time and day appointed as aforesaid. Which said two
 Justices, according to the evidences that shall be given before them,
 shall give sentence as the crime deserveth and the said Justices shall
 forthwith issue out their warrants for executing said Sentence, and
 Such Justices may if they see fitt, condemn any Slave to the Party
 injured until the Owner paye such damage as shall be by them
 adjudged to be paid to any Person injured. And any Justice who
 shall neglect his duty herein enjoined shall forfeit for each time
 attending twenty pounds. And it is likewise more than one Slave be
 combining in a crime, it is at the discretion of Such Justice to
 adjudge one to death for example sake, and save the rest, & to com-
 mand the other Owners to contribute in proportion for the Slave
 dying, to his Owner, as they judge the value, and on refusal or
 paymente Such Justices are to give execution on their goods and
 Chattels, and Sell them at Publick Sale, to satisfy the money by them
 appointed to be paid or contributed. and it is further
 enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any Slave lose life
 or limb by punishment for a crime, by his Master or the Justices or
 any Person shall be liable to the Law for the same. And Where
 at an Act Entituled an Act for Drivving in Runaway Slaves
 and encouragements of Such who shall bring them in, dated the
 eighth day of February our Monarch Six hundred eighty one con-
 firmed by King Charles the second of blessed memory, It was
 therein provided by a clause in said Act, that what Negroes or other
 Slaves should absent themselves from their Masters, or Mistresses ser-
 vice for the space of three months or upwards should be punished
 with death. And Whereas the said clause in the said Act
 is sometimes found to Sever by reason of new ignorant Slaves.
 It is therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid that this
 clause is repealed, made null, and void, And for the future
 It is enacted that what Slave soever shall absent
 Themselves.

Themselves from their Master, or Mistresses Service
 During the Space of three months, or upwards shall be pun-
 ished with Death, Loss of Limb, or member, or publick whip-
 ping at the Discretion of two Justices of the Peace whom the
 offending ^{Slave} shall be brought before, and be iterated
 by the authority aforesaid that the owners of such Slave
 or Slaves as shall be punished with Death for the offence
 aforesaid, shall be satisfied for the loss of such Slave eighteen pence
 Current money to be paid out of the Publick Treasury of this Island
 and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid
 that upon any Publick punishments that shall be by Sentence of
 any Justice, or Justices is inflicted by virtue of this act, the charge
 incident thereto shall be borne by the Publick, and paid by the
 Treasurer, by order of the said Justice, or Justices, provided the
 Sum exceed not five pounds Current money, And be it
 further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any Person
 kill a Slave Stealing or in pursuit of him being adrunaway,
 and refuse to Submit, such Person shall not be liable to any
 prosecution at Law, any Law, Custom, or usage to the contrary
 notwithstanding, and be it further enacted by the
 authority aforesaid, that if any Person whatsoever shall sell
 any Summ to a Slave on the Sabbath day, or any sort of Dry-
 goods by barter, or other ways, he shall forfeit three pounds
 Current money for each offence, and it is further enacted
 by the authority aforesaid that all penalties mentioned in this
 act, and now directed how to be recovered, and disposed of, if not
 more than six pounds money, shall be levied by a Justice or Justices
 directed to a Constable, who is on penalty of forty Shillings
 for each refusal, to execute all warrants, and other process
 directed by him, and to receive for his pains eight pence
 of the said forfeiture, and at above six pounds to be recovered
 by action of Debt in any Court of Record in this Island, and
 shall be one half to the King for the use of the Publick of this Island,
 the other half to the Informer, or Person Injured for the same,
 and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid
 that all free Negroes, Mulattos, or Indians not having Land,
 shall be obliged in thirty days after the date hereof, to choose
 some Master or Mistres, to live with, whom shall be chosen by them,
 and with whom they shall live, and take their abode, to the intent
 their lives and conversations may be known to be carried to their
 respective Duties, And if any free Person, not being a Native

Shall presume to Strike a white Servant, he shall be by order of the next Justice, on proof of this striking, Severely whipt at the discretion of said Justice, AND that all Persons who are not whites, and are fit to go out to trades, shall be bound apprentices to any Person that will receive them for seven years, unless they choose a Master or Mistress to be bound to by this next Justice who shall be informed of such Persons, and who is immediately to cause them to be bound in ten days after such information, to any willing to receive them, on penalty of forfeiting ten pounds. And Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid that for the future no Free Negro shall be Owner or possessor of more than eight acres of Land, and in respect shall be deemed and accounted a Grovender. A proviso provided that if any Negro or possessor of more than eight acres of Land in his own right, may within Six months make sale of the surplus of said Land, and for want of making sale of said Land in the aforesaid time the said surplus above eight acres to be forfeited to the Queen and a proviso it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any Minister of this Island shall man any Free Person to any Slave in this Island, such Minister shall be liable to the use of the Dutty eight pound Current money to be recovered by warrant under the hand of the Governor in Chief, Deputy Governor or President for the time being of said Island in nature of an Execution directed to the Coroner Marshall of this Island, who shall have the same. And Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said Free Person so maning such Slave shall pay to the Owner of the Slave his hath wanted the sum of twenty pounds, or be obliged by order of two Justices to serve four years. All the aforesaid Enactments to be to the same use, and recovered after the same manner as before writ in this act. and it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any white Person shall Strike, beat, or otherwise abuse any Free Negro Indian or Molatto, on purpose thereof made to any Justice of the Peace, he shall be bound over to the Sessions, and be punished at the discretion of the Justice then sitting, any Law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding Dated the twenty eighth of June Seventeen hundred and two. and in the first year of the Reign of Queen Anne over England, Scotland, France and Ireland &c.

Which said Law have been perused and considered by the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, & presented by their Lordships to her Majesty, with their opinion that the said Law be confirmed. Her Majesty is graciously pleased with the Advice

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A will of Her Privy Council to declare her approbation
of the said laws, and in pursuance to Her most Royal pleasure
thereupon the said Laws are hereby confirmed and finally enacted
and ratified accordingly

Antigua 25th Oct to Enable In^o Fry Jun^o
... Them to ... Two hundred