



necessary to be full in the former Law of this Island concerning the ordering and governing of Negroes and to add thereto such further Laws & Ordinances as at this time shall also be necessary for the publique safety and may prove to the future to be profitable to the peace and quiet of this Island by this Act repealing and dissolving all other former Lawes made concerning the said Negroes and for this time so come.

Clause 1: Be it enacted published and declared and it is by the provision Council and Assembly of this Island and by authority of the same made produced & published that any Master or Overseer or any other person of any family within this Island shall give their Negroes leave on Sabbath days or at any other time to go out of their plantations except such Negroes as usually wait upon them at home and abroad and then with a writt or two after the said Council or Overseer shall the said writt specifying the time of two or three hours from the plantation and the time allowed for two or three returns & no other Negroes except upon necessary business and then to send a Christian or Negroes Overseer along with them with a writt as aforesaid upon forfeiting for every Negro so permitted to go abroad 500 of New England shillings the said writt to the Governor and the other writts to the publique Treasury; And if any Master or Overseer of any plantation shall find any Negro or Negroes at any time in their plantations without a writt and business from the said Council or Overseer and not apprehend them or endeavour so to do and having apprehended them shall not punish them by a moderate whipping shall forfeit 500 of New England shillings to be disposed of as aforesaid the said penalty to be returned before some Justice of the peace of their precinct where such default shall be made who is hereby authorized upon Complaint made to examine upon oath to hear and determine the same and by Writt under his hand directed to the Constable to cause the same penalty to be levied as in case of servants wages appointed.

to  
of Negroes  
going abroad

book N<sup>o</sup> 163

any finding Negroes  
in their plantations  
without a writt

Clause 2: It is further enacted ordered and published that if any Negro Man or Woman shall offer any violence to any Christian or by striking or the like the Negroes shall for two and their first offence by information given to the next Justice of the peace be severely whipped by the Constable by order of the said Justice for the second offence of that nature by order of the said Justice

to  
of Negroes  
striking Negroes



Hereafter shall take any Runaway Negro shall person shall within forty eight  
 hours after being the said Runaway to the proper Governor or to the Provoost  
 Marshall or the Deputy upon pain of forfeiting for every day they shall be  
 any bringing a Runaway Negro  
 fine Negro or Negroes beyond the said forty eight hours and the sum of two hundred  
 by pound or more the sum or quantity of one thousand pounds of Merchants  
 value to be levied by the Provoost Marshall or the Deputy by or of the  
 Governor for the time being upon the person for neglecting to bring the said Runaway  
 upon the said goods or chattels the one half thereof to the owner of the said  
 Negro and the other to him or them that shall inform the same out of  
 being the said Marshall's fee shall be deducted And if the said person or  
 person informing be servant or servants to the party so doing upon the said  
 Negro that the said person or persons so informing shall be free from  
 if a informant be servant to the party  
 absolutely free and free from the service any Indenture or Contract  
 to the contrary notwithstanding!

any bringing a Runaway Negro

if a informant be servant to the party

if a Governor refuse to pay the 100 lbs.

Clause 7: And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid that all persons who shall hereafter  
 take any Runaway or fugitive Negro and shall not bring them to the Provoost Marshall  
 or the Deputy shall forfeit one hundred pounds of Merchants value or a week for so many that  
 the person may dispose of the said Negro audibly upon the delivery of them from the Governor  
 for the time being who is hereby required to pay the same, and in case he shall refuse  
 to make the said payment upon the present of the said Negro and the sum of one  
 hundred pounds of Merchants value shall be levied out of the  
 goods of the said Governor and the said goods to be delivered to the said party.

how long the Provoost Marshall may detain a Negro

the Provoost Marshall to give him his due

Clause 8: And be it further enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid that it shall  
 may be lawful for the said Provoost Marshall to detain and keep in his custody the  
 body of all such Runaways until the owner of them shall pay unto him the said Governor  
 one hundred and ten pounds of Merchants value and also until the said Provoost Marshall  
 four pound of the said Sugar for every twenty four hours the said fugitive Negro  
 has been in his custody and also until he hath a discharge of the aforesaid Governor  
 or the Governor's Deputy; provided always that the said Provoost Marshall do furnish  
 the said Negroes with sufficient food and drink.

Clause 9: And it is further provided and ordained as aforesaid that if any of the said Negroes  
 shall die for want of food or dry or contumacious going the Provoost Marshall shall be



personally

person whose the goods be who is hereby required to make restitution of what is in being to the true owner upon the penalty of the forfeiture of 2000 of Negroes Sug. for every neglect by the owners or clerks aforesaid in any of the particulars to be obeyed upon the goods or chattels for the breach of either of those two last clauses in the breach of which or Warrant from the Judge or Justice before whom King Guinnon shalbee had the one half of the fine aforesaid to goe to the publique Treasury the other halfe to the person shall informe the that all Negroes his selfe may receive our our agm. to take fugitives and Runaway Negroes.

Clause 12:

It is further ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid that whosoever a Negro shall at any time of the aforesaid take by any Runaway Negro that have come out abroad his or her selfe shall stand for the first doing fine of hundred pounds of Sug. to be paid by the owner if hee will receive him within one Month during which time the Master of the Negro that took by any Runaway shall power to keep for the purpose aforesaid But if the owner of the said Runaway Negro will not receive him within the said time then the Master in whole power, hee in whole power to see the aforesaid fugitive or Runaway Negro and to take fine of hundred pounds of Sug. to himselfe for the Negro and the rest to be returned to the Master of the Negro so taken by such whosoever shall receive or receive any Negro that shall be taken by any fugitive of the bond or reward given him by this Law for the doing shall for for the first doing fine of hundred pounds of Negro Sug. and three to the Justice and one third to the Negro wronged where justice and forfeiture shall be justly employed by the Master of the Negro in satisfaction for the said Negro to whom with a charge of a good reward on his right hand whosoever hee may be known and the thirds of all good rewards for the good service to the Country the aforesaid fine to be employed by him that shall see for it in any Court of Justice by Arrow of Debt or information in writing nor by any prohibition suspension or wages of law shall be admitted or allowed, The whosoever owners shall dispose, person have heretofore attempted to steal away Negroes by any means or by any means from freedom in another Country as to write of such practices nor quinquina: shall be liable to be punished.

if the all will not receive him

any receiving the Negro of the bond

Clause 13: as to stealing Negroes

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid that whosoever shall directly or indirectly at any time hereafter publish or reveal to any Negroes to leave their Master or Master for ever to whom they are slaves, out of which and designe to carry away any of them out of the field or into the woods or do so said their Master or of them and be thereof convicted by their own confession or the oathes of two credible witnesses or by the confession of such Negro or Negroes with

reasonable circumstances concerning shall be by the Governor of the said for the time being  
 or by any Judge of Record or any two Justices of the peace adjudged to pay the said Mass<sup>e</sup>  
 of the said Negro or Negroes five thousand pounds of Silver by the said or the warrant  
 from the aforesaid Governor Judge or Justice before whom the Commission is made to be  
 levied upon the said goods or Chattels of the person so offending by such Constable lawfully  
 the aforesaid Warrant shall be directed and returned to the party grieved by way of  
 damage and the Surplusage (if any be) shall be returned to the owner And in case the  
 party offending shall not be found worth said goods or Chattels to the value aforesaid  
 then shall the Governor Judge or Justice assigne him or her to the party injured seven  
 years and so detain him or her to him and make Record thereof. But if any shall  
 shall so tempt and practise any person Negro or and then so actually bought or bought  
 tary and sold of the said and be after apprehended in the said for the same  
 he shall by the Governor and Council for the time being condemned to pay the owners  
 of such Negroes three times the value of them in Silver and for the same  
 from the Governor: to give accordingly unto the Sheriff Marshall or his deputy  
 and other chief magistrates and grave persons Murder Burglarys & robbing  
 in the highway burning of houses and such other many crimes committed by Negroes whose  
 offenders for danger of offence are not long to be unpunished and being British Slaves  
 of such not for the benefit of their condition to be kept by the legal by all of what  
 them of their parents or neighbourhood where surely nothing can be rightly done as  
 the subjects of England and nor is it expedient to be delayed towards them in case of such  
 he will seem committed.

any sending of other  
 Negroes for sale  
 to the value

Clause 14. It is therefore enacted ordained and published by the President Council and Assembly  
 and by the authority of the said that whosoever shall receive or receive any such  
 any Negro or Negroes Slave or Slaves and the said Criminals apprehended and brought before  
 any of the aforesaid Justices of the peace within three days the Justice before whom the Criminals  
 are brought shall take security for their further coming or send them to prison and with all  
 their goods shall give bills thereunto from the next Justice of the peace and those two Justices  
 shall by their Warrant take to them these bills good and legal freeholders shall hear &  
 examine all Evidence proofs and testimony of the fact committed And if they shall find  
 such Negro or Negroes guilty thereof they shall give sentence of death upon him or them  
 although do it provided by Law for such Criminal offenders the said freeholders being first  
 sworn before the two Justices who are hereby empowered to administer the said and forthwith  
 by their Warrant cause to be done upon such Negro or Negroes Slave or Slaves by  
 the common executioner or by what other executioner can be gotten without any or Negroes

the by all the  
 Negroes for the

Clause 15. It is further provided that if any person shall make default to appear upon

and Sumons before the Justice ad to before mentioned or appearing refuse to joyne to  
 them ad before them the aforesaid Justice sett a fine upon any of said bondsmen you must  
 of M<sup>rs</sup> Dug<sup>gs</sup> and to loamy the said bond the aforesaid freeholders the goods or (rather  
 at all things; Besides which or no better words that all petty felony or true or the value  
 of hoodlum you and all small boyler and miscompu<sup>er</sup> shall be heard & do for invidy  
 by the Mast<sup>r</sup> of the Negro or Negroes committing the said upon the complaint of the  
 party injured; But if the Mast<sup>r</sup> shall not give the Negro permission in the  
 points of the complainant to be satisfied the party injured shall carry the complaint  
 to the next Justice of the peace who is hereby required and authorized to hear the same  
 and upon conviction by confession or witness or by the party injured to inflict sure  
 ty and all pains or punishment not injurious to his health or thought or had in his  
 profession shall be liable for and responsible; And to wit that all petty felonies and  
 the papers are daily committed by Negroes in maiming one another and killing of the poor  
 and the stealing of Negroes and divers other of like nature which will be to the injury  
 and chargeable to the party injured should be compelled to take the ordinary course of  
 Justice against them for the more speedy prosecution thereof for the future.

Clause 16: Be it enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid that upon any complaint made  
 to any of the Justices of the peace dwelling within the parish where the offence  
 committed the said Justice shall issue his warrant for apprehending the Negro or Negroes  
 so complained of and for all purposes that shall require to be done against them and if upon  
 examination it doth probably appear that the said Negro or Negroes are guilty of the  
 same complained of then the said Justice is to certify the same to the Justice dwelling  
 next to him and to depose the said Justice by virtue of this Act to assigne himselfe with  
 him where said Justice is hereby required on such depute to doo and both of them so  
 assigned are to issue out their Sumons to these sufficient freeholders of the said parish  
 where the fact so complained of was committed acquainting them with the said matter  
 and appoint them a day hours and place where and when the same shall be heard and  
 do be heard by the Jurymen of the said freeholders and the major part of the same  
 of them at what day hours and place the said Justice and freeholders shall require and  
 upon the said depute or Sumons of the said Justice or freeholders guilty of the fact  
 complained of they shall then and there the owner or owners of the said offence  
 respectively to make reparacion and satisfaction to the complainant for the damage done  
 shall be bound where if the owner or owners shall refuse to make according to law or  
 their proportion by the said Justice and freeholders or the major part of them do judge  
 and appoint them and in such case the said offending Negro or Negroes belonging to sure

owner or owners for refusing shall by the Court first remove five Corporal punishment: do the said Judges shall think fitt and after be awarded to the party injured to take and to hold the said Negroe to the said injured party and the heirs for ever, And in case the said Justice and Sherif and any or either of them shall neglect or refuse to performe the in-  
 dultor where by the Act is required of them they shall be liable for five their respective default forfeits the full quantity of five hundred pounds of Masse by the one half to the publicke Treasury the other half to the party grieved if the said proferture for the same in the Court of the Court where the said default is made.

Clause 17: And it is further enacted ordaind and published by the president Council and Assembly and by authority aforesaid that if any Negroe shall make Insurrection or rise in rebellion against the plant or people or make preparation of arms powder or offensive weapons be hold any Council or conspiracy for raising Mutiny or rebellion in the said and the Colonies formerly attempted that then for the speedy remedy thereof the Governor of the said or the superior officers for the time being appoint a full and the field officers of the Regim of the Island or any four of them to meet in Council and proceed by Marshall Law ag<sup>t</sup> the above said and to raise force by death or other paines as the same shall deserve And as the aforesaid full or field officers or any four of them shall see fitt And that no Master or Command of a family should be frighted by feare of loss to ware into and detour them owne Negroes for stilly intended

Negroes rising in rebellion to be tried by Marshall Law

Clause 18: It is further enacted and ordaind that the loss of Negroes so or ordered shall be borne by the publicke and within the year Insurreyion not sufficient to satisfy the loss a publicke Levy to be presently made upon the Inhabitants for reparacion of the same And whereas diverse Negroes are and long since have bene Runaway with theod and other fastness of the said do continually using with the to find all the Inhabitants of this Island finding themselves some times in one place and some times in another so that with much difficulty they are to be found but by some sudden surprize.

Clause 19: Be it therefore ordaind and enacted and it is hereby ordaind and enacted that from and after publication hereof it shall and may be law full for any Justice of the peace Justice or Capt of a Company within this Island that shall have notice of the residence or hiding place of any Runaway Negro fugitive and outlaws to raise any number of Men not exceeding twenty to apprehend

or take them either alive or dead And for every Negro whare they shall take  
 for taking of this being Runaway from his said Master about six Months they shall  
 Runaway Negroes to wit at five Hundred pounds of Sug. And for every Negro whare he shall  
 becom Runaway about Months one thousand pounds of Sugar from  
 the owner Mast<sup>r</sup> or Comand<sup>r</sup> of the said Negro if he shall they shall receive  
 five hundred pounds of Muske Sugar from the publick any Act or Statute  
 heretofore to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding

Clause 20 This it is further enacted and ordeyned by the authority aforesaid that if any  
 Negro be or shall be of the said Mast<sup>r</sup> or Comand<sup>r</sup> for running away or any  
 other crime or misdemeanour toward his said Mast<sup>r</sup> shall suffer in life or in  
 Limbe nor person whatsoever shall be accountable to any Law heretofore but  
 if any Man whatsoever shall of wantonness or only wantonness and must  
 willfully kill any Negro of the owners he shall pay unto the publick  
 Treasury three thousand of Muske Sugar but if he shall kill another man and he shall  
 pay unto the owner of the Negro double the value and into the publick Treasury  
 five thousand pounds of Muske Sugar And he shall further by the word Justice  
 of the peace be bound to the good behaviour during the pleasure of the  
 Governor and Council and not to be liable to any other punishment or forfeiture  
 for the same neither his wife shall another Man Negro by assault  
 liable to any other penalty but the owners thereof at Law But if any person  
 shall assault or other person kill a Negro by night out of the common path or  
 stealing his possession beyond or above goods he shall not be accountable  
 for it any Law Statute or ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding And to the  
 Negroes killed without it may be certainly knowne what Negroes are out in rebellion to their  
 stealing Masters to the publick Treasury

Clause 21 It is by the authority aforesaid enacted and ordeyned that all owners of  
 Negroes within this Island within ten days after publication hereof shall be  
 accountable to the Secretary for the time being in writing what Negroes he has  
 a certificate to be sent to the Secretary and of the time they have beene gone and soe for the time to come  
 for change of his within ten dayes after any Negro shall abscond himselfe from the service and especially  
 of all Runawayes of paying of one thousand pounds of Muske Sugar wherof the one halfe to be to the  
 Informer the other to the publick Treasury to be recovered by him that shall sue for it in  
 any Court of Record by Oath of death or information in writing and ordeyned provided  
 injunction or wager of Law shall be permitted or allowed And because the Negroes

If the ~~land~~ in these late years past are buy more increased and growne to such a great  
number as cannot bee safely or easely governed unless we have a Considerable number of  
Christians to Govern and equal their strength and the richest Men in the Island looking  
for the more profit shall the more only with almost all Negroes neglecting Christian  
Service and so consequently their owne and publique safety.

Clause 22

Be it therefore enacted and ordained by the President Council and Assembly and  
it is enacted and ordained by the authority of the same that within two months  
after publication hereof every freehold person himselfe of one Christian Servant  
for every twenty  
to every one Christian for every twenty three of Land that hee enjoyes or possesseth shal from the said  
two months Moneths forward that every freehold possessor of thirtie Acres of Land or  
more shal have no more than one Man Servant for thirtie Acres of Land nor in thirtie  
more for every other of thirtie the penalty of forfeiting three thousand pounds of  
the Kings Sup<sup>d</sup> out of thirtie to bee to the Inferiour one thousand to the Governour or  
Superiour officers of this Island for the time being and one thousand pound to the  
three wardens and overseers of the woods for the use of his woods wares and in  
total parish full default is made to bee returned against the refusing or  
neglecting obedient herein in any Court of Records by the party which shall sue for  
it and the fine to bee now layed upon every person every three Moneths that hee  
continues his contumacy or refuse or neglect to performe Obedience hee shal  
of Record that in case Christian Servants request properly gotten that they shal  
that want the proportion of the said manors to supply themselves with the like  
number of slaves then white are to bee taxed for six Moneths at least that they  
they bee not liable to the afore said forfeiture; Lastly to the intent of the  
Act and every clause and branch thereof may receive full execution and not you  
pleas Ignorance therein.

Clause 23

It is ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said Act  
shall be published in all the respective parishes (namely in this Island the first Sunday  
in February and the first Sunday in August every year ensuing the date and first  
publication thereof which was the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1667.

Signed Humphrey M. Abroad

In Act for the maintaining and safe keeping of Records

Whereas the Assembly having taken into Consideration & deliberate consideration the  
business keeping of the Records of this Island of which they have received several

Act