

Act

An Act to prevent the people called Quakers from  
bringing Negroes to their meetings.

Whereas of late many Negroes have been suffered to remain at  
the meetings of the Quakers and to hear of their doctrine and taught in  
their principals, which by the safety of the State in any good sense is a hazardous  
Clause 1: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency Sir Jonathan Ashmole  
Kt: Cap: Governour and his Ex: Council of this and other the said Colonies  
with the Council and Representatives of this said Province hereby enacted  
by the authority aforesaid that if any thing or things after publication  
thereof any Negro or Negroes be found with the said people called  
Quakers at any of their meetings and to hear of their preaching that  
said Negro or Negroes shall be forfeited that is to say due half to the  
party or parties that shall seize or sue for said Negro or Negroes if  
the Negro belong to any of the said people called Quakers and the other  
moiety to the public use of this said Province that if the said Negro or  
Negro be seized that the party or parties so seizing shall bring an Action  
within three months next ensuing upon this Statute against the owner or  
the supposed owner of the said Negro or Negroes in any Court of record  
within this said Province at the choice of the Informer and in all such suits

upon the Statute the dole or dole have been daye Summons ~~shall~~  
~~shall~~ as is used at the Court of Common Pleas at the first ~~of~~  
 the daye to be ~~the~~ ~~first~~ ~~of~~  
 after Summons shall appear ~~shall~~ and come to trye or the Court to give  
 Judgem: on sure ~~Shall~~ by writt dunt and upon all ~~Shall~~ on every ~~Shall~~  
 grounds on the Statute ~~Shall~~ immediately to issue.

Clause 2. And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid that if sure  
 Negro or Negroes being at the meeting as aforesaid and doth not belong to  
 any of the persons sent at the said meeting then may any person or persons  
 being an ~~Shall~~ grounds upon the Statute against any of the persons sent  
 at the said meeting at the discretion of the Justices for the sum of four  
 pounds ~~Shall~~ for every Negro or Negroes sent as aforesaid & the same  
 remaine four pounds ~~Shall~~ for every sure Negro or Negroes to be divided  
 in the manner before expressed on which ~~Shall~~ or ~~Shall~~ shall be sure  
 proceedings as is before appointed.

Clause 3. And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person  
 or persons whatsoever shall keep any ~~Shall~~ to instruct any ~~Shall~~ or  
~~Shall~~ in any learning unless such person or persons in our ~~Shall~~ after  
 publication ~~Shall~~ first take the oath of Allegiance and Supremacy  
 before some Justice of the peace of the parish where the person lived & take  
 a Certificate thereof for writing Certificate the Justice ~~Shall~~ only to take for  
 the writing one shilling ~~Shall~~ or that the party ~~Shall~~ special license from  
 the Governor for the year being of the year ~~Shall~~ if any person or persons  
 keep any ~~Shall~~ or ~~Shall~~ contrary to the true meaning of the Act shall  
 for every offence suffer the ~~Shall~~ Imprisonment without bail or mainprize  
 and shall forfeit three thousand pounds of silver the one moiety to the  
 Governor the other half to the publique use of the year to be sued for and  
 returned as aforesaid.

Clause 4. And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid that no person  
 or persons whatsoever that is not an Inhabitant and resident of this ~~Shall~~  
 and ~~Shall~~ be so for the year of two ~~Shall~~ ~~Shall~~ shall  
 hereafter publicly discourse or preach at the meeting of the ~~Shall~~ upon  
 the penalty of forfeiting the ~~Shall~~ Imprisonment without bail or mainprize

all binding ~~Shall~~  
 to take the oath

and shall forfeit ten thousand of M<sup>o</sup>rs Leg: the one moiety to such person  
 that shall sue for the same the other to the publique use of His Ma<sup>ty</sup> for God  
 retained in manner as aforesaid; of record that all Iron or Iron  
 within His Statute be brought within six Monthes next after  
 the offering given under my hand the 21: Aprile 1646

Jonathan Atkins