

Mountserrat.

An Act to restrain the Insolencies
from committing any outrages
as also the better ordering such
Slaves, &c.

Whereas it is Notorious that the Negroes not only commit quivous outrages upon the Inhabitants by Stealing and carrying away their Cattle and other Stock raised for their Subsistance but are likewise in many places of this Island got together in such Numbers as to threaten the disturbance of the Peace and quiet of the same: We therefore pray their Majesties that it may be Enacted, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hence forward where any Negro shall be taken Stealing or carrying away Stock Cattle or Provision amounting to the Value of Twelve pence such Negro or Negroes taken therein shall upon due proof thereof before the Governour and Council suffer such Death as they shall think fit to award, And when any Negro shall have any theft proved against him, and the Value not amounting to twelve Pence Currant Mony of this Island that then and in such Cases such Negro shall only suffer a severe whipping and have both his ears cutt off for the first time but for the second Offence in the like nature shall suffer Death in the form aforesaid the Publick paying the Owner for every Negro put to Death the Sum of three thousand five hundred pounds of Muscovado Sugar.

And forasmuch through the Negroes Stealing and destroying poor Peoples provisions they are quite discouraged from planting what they expect not to reap, Be it moreover Enacted and Provided that it shall and may be lawfull for any person to shoot at and if possible to kill any Negro he shall find digging out drawing or Stealing his Provision provided such Provision be not within forty foot of the Common Path, and that the party so killing the Negro hath not in the hearing of others expressed either hatred or Malice against the Owner of such Negro for in either cases the Owner of such shall recover Damages to the full Value of any who shall so kill their Negro.

And since by the often and frequent meeting of the Negroes on the Lords day most of the mischiefs which are then by them plotted and contrived and seeing Masters Mistresses and Overseers are very negligent in their

their Several Plantations; Be it therefore further Enacted and Ordained that no person whatsoever being Owner or possessor give leave to any Negro Slave under their ownership or charge to depart or leave their Plantations on the Sunday without a Ticket expressing his or their business and whether going upon Penalty of three hundred pounds of Sugar and having their Negro Slaves whipt by the Owner or Owners of such Plantations where they shall be found or taken without a Ticket and any owner of a Plantation or overseer who shall neglect to punish as aforesaid any Negro without a Ticket being found in his Plantation or under his care or charge shall forfeit the sum of three hundred pounds of Sugar.

And it is further provided by the Authority aforesaid that once in every Month every Master or Mistress or Overseer of a Family shall throughout all his Negro houses make diligent search for and seize upon all Slaves Clubs or Mischievous Weapons they shall there find as also all stolen goods and commodities shall be found if of any Value shall publish the same describing the quantity and quality thereof that thereby the owners may be the better able to claim it in case and upon full proof made it was theirs it may be restored them and for flesh of any sort that shall be found the Negro in whose house it was taken unless he or she can make it plainly appear they came by it honestly shall undergo a whipping and have one of their ears cut off. Provided always and be it further Enacted that where there are more in Number than one Slave concerned in any heinous or grievous Crime as Burglary Robbery Burning of Houses or lanes killing or Stealing any manner or kind of Cattle or Stock only one of them shall suffer Death who shall appear to be the greatest Criminal.

And it is further Enacted and Provided by the Authority aforesaid that all Commission Officers within this Island are hereby Empowered and required upon Notice by any one to them given of any Number of Negroes got together and the place where immediately upon the same to raise a sufficient Number of Men and with them to pursue apprehend and take such Negroes either a live or Dead and whatsoever Commission Officers shall neglect or other persons refuse to be aiding and assisting herein shall forfeit the sum of two thousand pounds of Sugar.

And whereas some Masters and Mistresses or overseers of Plantations are so careless as not to put in a competency of Provisions for their Slaves whereby they are often forced to run away or at least to commit thefts and overscers of any Plantations within this Island at all times after the Expiration of ten Months ensuing the Publication shall have always kept for every eight Negroes one Acre of ground well planted in provisions and proportionably for a greater or lesser Number which whosoever shall neglect after the Term Months ended and then at the end of every Six Months for every Acre so wanting shall forfeit the sum of one Thousand pounds of Sugar.

And it is moreover provided and Enacted that where two Slaves shall fall out and fight and the one Maim or kill the other it shall lie at the persons discretion whose Negro shall be either Maim'd or killed whether for the first Offence the Negro who committed the same shall suffer whipping or for the latter Death or to receive such Satisfaction of the owner of such Negro as the Governor and his Council shall adjudge sufficient.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that where any person shall attempt to Steal or take off this Island in any Ship Boat Flore, Sarrise, Bark, Logg or other Vessel any Negro or Negroes shall for offering the same forfeit five thousand pounds of Sugar or be close in Prison for the Space of Six Months and whatsoever person or persons shall Steal or carry off from this Island any Negro or Negroes in any such Vessel or Vessels as aforesaid shall and are hereby esteemed and Adjudged guilty of Felony and shall not have the benefit of their Clergy.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that where any white shall take a Slave and bring him in Dead or a live if a live shall have paid him by the owner of such Negro or Slave the sum of five hundred Pounds of muscovado Sugar, where Dead the same sum out of the Publick Stock of this Island and where any Slave shall take a Run away such Negro Slave shall have three hundred pounds of Sugar either by the owner or publick as aforesaid.

And be it moreover Enacted that any person upon loss of any Cattle Stock or other Provision may immediately without going to a Justice of Peace or requiring a Warrant repair to any Plantation or Plantations whereof he shall have suspicion and there taking the Master Mistress or overseers of the same along with him shall have full Power to search all and singular the Negro Houses or other Houses belonging

belonging to such Plantations or Plantations and if need be break open any thereof and any Master or Mistress or Overseer of Plantation who shall make any resistance or obstruct them therein shall pay to the party who hath sustained any loss double the Value thereof.

And in as much as there are several Taxes, Duties and Donations before mentioned in this Act and not declared where they shall be recovered and how disposed of. Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that one Moiety be to their Majesties their Heirs and Successors for and towards the Support of the Government of this Island and the contingent Charges thereof the other to the Informers to be recovered by Decree of Debt in any Court of Record within this Island by Bill Plaint or otherwise wherein no Examinee Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed any Law Custom or Usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

And be it further provided and Enacted that any Negro or Slave within this Island that shall abscond himself from their Master or Mistresses Service for the space of three Months and afterwards taken and convicted thereof shall suffer Death as a Felon any Law Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding the Order of the said Negro to be allowed him out of the Publick Stock of this Island three thousand five hundred pounds of Sugar as is before provided in this Act. Dated in Mountserrat the sixteenth Day of June in the fifth year of their Majesties Reign Annoq. Domini. 1693.

Signed Chr: Cadrington

Confirmed by His Majesty in Council at Kensington
Decem. 31. 1696.

By Order of the Lords
Commissioners for Trade
and Plantations.

Examined
Wm D. D. D.
Whitehall Sept. 26. 1724.

Mountserrat, September the 4. 1725. Published by Order of the Gov. & Council
T. D. Marshall

Recorded the foregoing Act by Order of the Honble the Lieutenant Governor and Council
Entitled an Act to restrain the Involences of Slaves and for preventing them from committing
any Offences as also the better securing such Slaves &c. and is a true Copy taken and
Examined from a Copy sent from the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations and
under the Seal of the Office

Mountserrat Decem. 16. 1725.

J. G. French Junr Secy

Mountserrat.

An Act for Repairing and
Amending the Highways and
for preventing the cutting down
or clearing the Standing Woods
under woods, Coppes or bushes which
grow by the Sides of Rivers and
Brooks in this Island.

Whereas the Highways and common Roads of this Island are often out of repair which
occasions them to be very Inconvenient and troublesome to persons passing or travelling therein
and