

C H A P.
XV.

May pres
Assistance.
Penalty on
White Per-
sons refusing
to aid.
On Slaves
belonging to
the Planta-
tion.

to require as many Persons as may be necessary, to repair with him to such Places, and that every Person that shall be so required, and shall refuse, shall forfeit One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to be recovered and applied as hereafter expressed; and all White Persons (being Free) that shall be present, shall aid and assist such Constable, on Pain of forfeiting One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco to the Lord Proprietor, one Half to the Use of the County, and the other to the Informer, on being convict by the Oath of the Constable, or other lawful Witness, or Confession of the Party before any Magistrate; and that all Negroes and other Slaves, belonging to the Owner of the Place where such Assembly shall be, if required, shall aid and assist the Constable in putting this Act in Execution, on Pain of being Whipped each of them with Thirty-nine Stripes on the bare Back.

Allowance to
such Con-
stables.
A Slave stri-
king a White
Person shall
have an Ear
cropt.

IV. And be it Enacted, That every Constable that shall be appointed to put this Act in Execution, shall be allowed Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco in the County Levy: And if it shall so happen at any Time, that any Negro or other Slave, shall Strike any White Person, it shall and may be lawful upon Proof made thereof, either by the Oath of the Party so struck, or otherwise, before any Justice of the Peace, for such Justice to cause one of the Negro's or other Slave's Ears so offending, to be cropt.

Persons may
warn strange
Slaves to be
gone from off
their Planta-
tions, and
whip them
on Refusal.

Penalty on
Persons en-
couraging
Slaves to
meet on their
Plantations.

V. And be it likewise Enacted, That the Owner of any Plantation or Plantations, that shall at any Time discover any strange Negro or other Slaves upon any of their Plantations, unless they are sent by their Owners on lawful Occasions, and shall warn such Negroes or other Slaves, to be gone Home to their Masters or Owners, any Negroes or other Slaves refusing or delaying so to do, it shall and may be lawful for the Owner of such Plantation to correct such Negro by Whipping, not exceeding Thirty-nine Lashes. And any Person that shall wittingly encourage any Negro or other Slaves, to meet in Companies on their Plantations, unless on lawful Occasions, shall forfeit and pay for every such Offence, One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco, to the Use aforesaid, to be recovered as aforesaid.

Penalty on
Owners suf-
fering Slaves
to keep Hor-
ses, &c.

VI. And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice and Consent aforesaid, That any Master or Owner of any Negro or other Slaves, that shall suffer any such Slaves to them belonging, to keep any Horses or Mares, or to raise any Cattle or Hogs, as the proper Right of such Slaves, the Master or Owner of such Slaves, shall forfeit and pay Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to be recovered and applied as aforesaid; and also all such Horses and Mares, Cattle and Hogs, shall likewise be forfeited, one Half to the Informer, the other Half to be applied as aforesaid.

Runaway,
Out-lying
Slaves resist-
ing, may be
shot or de-
stroyed.

VII. And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That whereas many Negroes and other Slaves, absent themselves from their Masters Service, and run out into the Woods, and there remain killing and destroying of Hogs and Cattle belonging unto the People of this Province; if that such Negro or Negroes, or other Slaves so out-lying as aforesaid, shall refuse to surrender themselves, making Resistance against such Persons as pursue to apprehend and take them up, being thereunto legally empowered, it shall be lawful to and for such Pursuers, upon such Resistance made, to shoot, kill and destroy such Negro or Negroes, or other Slave as aforesaid.

^f By 1751, *ch.* 14, §. 9, Persons so killing any Slave, are indemnified from Prosecution; the Slave so killed is to be valued, and the Value paid to the Owner. And by 1753, *ch.* 26, Persons so killing any Slave, shall undergo a Trial, but on pleading the General Issue, and Acquittal thereon, the Public shall pay the Costs of the Prosecution.

The Sheriff to
read this Act
every County
Court.

VIII. This Act to be Read at every County Court by the Sheriff, or his Deputy, on Pain of forfeiting Five Hundred Pounds of Tobacco for every Omission, to the Lord Proprietor; one Half to the Use of the County where
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