

But then it is to be Considered Whether the peculiar Circes of this Country where there is a great annual Importation of Convicts & where they are retained in the Service of different Masters & Suffered to go at large & with whom they "Celum non animum mutant" may not render such a Deviation from the Laws of their Mother Country/who can have no such Law as they are Subject to no such Inconveniency/not only a prudent Provision but a necessary measure as Calculated for the Meridian of this Country where as in every other Governm.^t the Salus Populi, ought to be, Suprema Lex.

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And their being made Evidence is only ag.^t one another & for New Facts that must arise Subsequent to their Transportation and which must be committed out of the Kingdom tho within the Realm of Great Britain

This Act is made Temporary for 3. years and to the end of the next Session of Assembly.

2.^d. . . . As to the 2.^d Act relating to the Punishm.^t of Slaves—Your Consid.ⁿ is more immediately desired upon the parlar Provisions made by the Act as the necessity of Some Regulations for the Discipline & Punishm.^t of Slaves is Notorious & Confirmed by antient usage as well in Maryland as in all others his Matys American Dominions.

But the Propriety of the Parlar Regulations made by this Bill the parlar Severitys & penaltys inflicted by the Bill & the methods of Convicting Offenders or, as in one Instance in the Bill the Liberty to kill such Offenders in Case of resistance and that without any after Tryal are matters more immediately worthy of Consideration

By the Parlar Clause Alluded to/Sect. 9/There is a Power given to any Person to Kill any Slave who shall make resistance & the Person Killing is Indemnified from any Prosecution for such Killing/by which it is apprehended to be Intended that there shall be no Prosecution at all ag.^t the Murtherer/& the value of the Slave Killed is to be paid by the Publick Treasurer to the Owners. [p. 2]

Whereas without such Prosecution Tryal neither the Original Offence of the Slave nor his resistance to the Officer appointed to take him, nor consequently the Innocence of the Officer in Killing him agreeable to the Act/in case such a Killing under the parlar Circes in the Act sh.^d be thought Justifyable/can be made appear

By the 2^d Sect. If a Slave Conspire Advise or attempt /int. a &/ to Commit a Rape on a White Woman or to burn a House shall Suffer death as a Felon

So Likewise by the 4.th Sect. Sentence is to be passed ag.^t any Slave who shall be Guilty of the Offences described in the Act & Convicted upon his own Confession or the Verdict of a Jury upon the Testimony of one or more Legal or Credible Witnesses or even