

Act for the more Effectual Preventing
and Punishing the Conspiracy and Insurrection
of Negro and other Slaves: for the better regulating
them and for repealing the Acts hereto Mentions
Relating thereto

Whereas many Mischief have been Occasioned by the too great Liberty allow'd
to Negro and other Slaves and that some of the Acts relating thereto are Expired
and others not fully answering the Good purposes thereby Intended, the
General Assembly therefore pray it may be Enacted and be it Enacted by his
Excellency the Governour the Council and the General Assembly, and it is
hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same, that no Person or Persons do
hereafter throughout this Colony presume to trade or traffick with any
Slave or Slaves either in buying or selling without leave and Consent of the Master
or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves on forfeiture of treble the Value of the thing
or things traded for and also the sum of five pounds Currant Lawfull money
to the Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves for each offence to be recover'd
of such Person or Persons so trading contrary to the true intent and meaning
of this Act by Action of Debt in any Court of record with in this Colony and
such sum or sums is Legivizable and all Contracts and Bargains made with
any Slave or Slaves shall be utterly void. And whereas notwithstanding

(L)

Laws

Laws passed heretofore in this Colony for the purposes above mentioned several evil
disposed Persons having nothing in View but their private gain do clandestinely trade
and traffick with Slaves, for remedy whereof Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid
that if any Person or Persons within this Colony shall from and after the Publication
of this Act sell any rum or other strong Liquor to any Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave
Slaves or shall buy or take in pawn from them any wares Merchandizes apparel
Tools Instruments or any other Kind of goods whatever and shall thereof be accused
by the Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves, or by any other Person or Persons
before any one Justice of the Peace in the City or County where the offender shall
Dwell or reside, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of forty Shillings for every such
offence to be recovered with costs before the said Justice of the Peace or before any other
Justice Dwelling where such offence is Committed (who is hereby strictly required and
Directed to hear and finally to determine the same) unless the Person or Persons
accused as above said do take his her or their Corporal Oath (which Oath the said
Justice is hereby Impowered to administer) that he she or they have not either by
themselves or by any other Person or Persons on his ^{her} or their behalf directly or indirectly
sold bought or taken in pawn any of the thing or things of which he she or they shall
be accused in manner as aforesaid; ^{which forfeiture} shall be one half to the Informer the other half
for the Poor of the City Town manner or Precinct where such offence is Committed and
upon non payment of the above mentioned penalty the offending party or parties
shall be by the said Justices Committed to the Common Jail there to remaine for

1706. page of Twenty days unless the said penalty be sooner paid

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that hereafter it shall and may be Lawfull for any Master or Mistres to Dimish his^{her} or their Slaves or Slaves for their Crimes and offences at discretion not Extending to Life or Limb

And for as much as the Number of Slaves in the Citys of New York and Albany as also within the several Courties Towns and Mannors within this Colony doth daily increase, and that they have been often times guilty of Confederating together in ruining away of other ill and Dangerous practices

Be it therefore Enacted by the aforesaid Authority that it shall not hereafter be Lawfull for above three Slaves to meet together at any time nor at any other Place then when it shall happen they meet in some servile employment for^{their} Master or Mistres profit and by their Master or Mistres consent upon penalty of being whipt upon the Naked back at the discretion of any one Justice of the Peace not Exceeding forty Laps for each offence—

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that it shall and may be Lawfull hereafter for every City Town and Mannor within this Colony to have and appoint a Common Whipper for their Slaves and for his salary it shall and may be Lawfull for any City Town or Mannor within this Colony at their Common Council or Town Meeting to agree upon such sum to be paid him by the master or Mistres of Slaves, not Exceeding the sum of three shillings per head for all such

Slaves as shall be whipt as aforesaid, and upon neglect or refusal of the Master or Mistress to pay the Sum so agreed upon as above that then such Slave or Slaves shall be Committed untill payment be made with Costs, and in Case any Slave shall presume to Assault or Strike any Christian or Jew it shall be in the power of any two Justices of the Peace (who by this Act are herunto Authorised) to Commit such Slave or Slaves to Prison not Exceeding fourteen days for one fact and to inflict such other Corporal Punishment not extending to Life or Limb upon him her or them so offending as to the said Justices shall seem meet and reasonable.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no Person or Persons whatsoever do hereafter Employ Harbour, Conceal or Entertain other mens Slave or Slaves, at their House out House or Plantation without the Consent of his her or their Master or Mistress upon the forfeiture of five pounds for every Twenty four hours (and so proportionably for a less time) they are so Concealed, or Entertained to the said Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves, so that the Penalty for Entertaining such Slave do not Exceed the Value of such Slave and if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall be found guilty of Harboring Entertaining or Concealing of any Slave or Slaves or assisting to the Conveying him her or them away if such Slave shall happen to be lost dead or otherwise destroyed such Person or Persons so harbouring entertaining concealing assisting or Conveying them away, shall be also Liab^l to pay the Value of such Slave or Slaves to the Master or Mistress to be recovered by Action of Debt in any Court of Record. And whereas

It often happens, through the Lenity of the said Master or Person under whose
Care the said Negroes or Slaves are, the Persons so Entertaining and dealing with
them are forgiven and not brought to Condign punishment: to the verry
great hurt not only of the said Masters but of other his Majesties Lige people
owning Negroes and other Slaves —

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any Master
or Mistress or Person under whose Care any Negro or other Slave is shall for
give make up Compound Compromise or receive or take any other or less
Consideration than is by this Act prescribed, shall forfeit double the sume
the said Person or Persons so entertaining ought to have forfeited to be recovered
in any Court of Record within this Colony by action of debt Bill Plaint or
Information wherein there shall be no Effoin protection wager of Law
or any more then one Imperlance allowed, one half thereof to any Person that
shall sue for the same, the other half to his Majesty his heirs and Successors for
and towards defraying the Publick Charge of the City Town burrough mannor
or Precinct in which the Master, Mistress or Person under whose care the said
Negroes or other Slaves are, doth dwell or Inhabit

Be it also further Enacted by the same Authority that if any Person or
Persons knowing of such Entertainer of Slave or Slaves and does not discover
the same to the Master Mistress or Person under whose Care the said Slave or
Slaves are or to some one Justice of the Peace or being suspected to know upon
Complaint

Complaint doth not discover the same or upon tender of an oath before any Justice of the Peace before whom such Complaint shall come (who is hereby Authorized to administer the same) shall refuse to take such oath and purge him her or themselves (the said Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing to Discover or take the said oath shall forfeit the sum of Forty Shillings to be immediately after Conviction Levied upon his ~~or~~ her or their goods and Chattles, to the use of the Person or Persons who shall Inform or complain and in case there be no goods and Chattles then the body of the Person or Persons Offending shall be committed to Gaol till he she or they pay and satisfy the ^{due} sum of Forty Shillings and charges accruing thereon and if it afterwards appear that any Person or Persons who by the directions in this Act are in any case Obliged to put getim her, or themselves by their oath, have sworn falsely such Person or Persons so offending shall incur the like pains and penalties as those who are found guilty of Willfull perjury and be prosecuted accordingly

And whereas there are many Negroes Indians and Mulattos who have formerly ^{been} Manumitted and made free within this Colony by their Masters or Owners, and it is found by Experience that they entertaine harbours Support and Encourage Negro Indian and Mulatto Slaves, to the Great Damage and Detriment of the Masters or owners of ~~the~~ Slaves, and of other of his Majesties Liege Subjects within this Colony —

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any

65

Negro

Negro Indian or Mulatto made or born free, or to be made free hereafter shall knowingly and willingly Entertain any Slave or Slaves Absenting himself or themselves from his her or their Masters or Mistresses Service without leave first given and signified as aforesaid or without the Master or Person under whose care the said Slave is, be present, the said Negro, Indian or Mulatto so Offending shall be forthwith apprehended and forfeit the sum of Ten Pounds for every night or day they are so Entertained, to the Master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves to be recovered by Action of debt as aforesaid

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that if any Master or Mistress shall manumitt and sett at Liberty any Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave, ^{and} such Master or Mistress so manumitting and setting at Liberty, or any other sufficient person for and on behalf such Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall do and Enter into a bond unto his Majesty his heirs and Successors with two Sureties in a sum not less than two hundred pounds at the General Sessions of the Peace for the County where such Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall Live or reside to keep and save such Negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave from becoming or being any Charge to the City Town Parish or Place within this Colony where he she or they shall at any time after such Manumission live the said Negro Indian or Mulatto shall be free according to such Manumission of the Master or Mistress so manumitting and setting at Liberty such Slave or Slaves and

And if any Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall have been made free or hereafter shall be made free by the Will or Testament of any Person Deceased that then if any Executor or Executors of any Person or Persons Deceased or on their neglect or refusal any other sufficient Person for and on the behalf of such Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall and do Enter into such Security as aforesaid at the General Sessions of Peace for the County where such Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall live or reside to keep and save such Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave from becoming or being any Charge to the City Town Parish or Place within this Colony where he she or they shall at any time after such Manumission live, the said Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave shall be free according to the true intent and meaning of the Will or Testament of any Person or Persons deceased, and if Security be not given in Manner as aforesaid such Manumission or devise as before mentioned shall be void and of none Effect any usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas Slaves are the Property of Christians or Jews and cannot without great Loss or detriment to their Masters or Mistresses be Subjected in all Cases Criminal to the strict Rules of the Laws of England

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hereafter if any Slave or Slaves by theft or other trespass shall damnify any Person or Persons to the Value of five pounds or under, the Master or Mistress of such Slaves

Slaves shall be liable to make satisfaction for such Damages to the Party
injured to be recovered by action of debt in any Court having Jurisdiction and
Cognizance of Pleas to that Value and the Slave or Slaves shall receive
corporall punishment at the discretion of any one Justice of the Peace, and
imediately thereafter (the Master or Mistres having first paid the Charges
of such punishment) be permitted to attend his or her Master or Mistres
Service without further punishment

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hereafter
no Slave or Slaves shall be allowed as Evidence or Evidences in any Matter
Cause or thing whatsoever excepting in Cases of Plotting or Conspiring among
themselves, either to run away Kill or destroy their Master Mistres or
any other Person, or Burning of houses Barns, Barracks or Stacks of hay
or of Corne or the killing of their Master or Mistres Cattle or Horses and that
only against one another, in which Case the widence of one Slave shall be
allowed good against an other Slave

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that all and
every Negro Indian or other Slave or Slaves who after the Publication of this act
shall Murder or other wise Kill unless by misadventure or in the Execution
of Justice, or Conspire or attempt the death of any of his Majesties Subject
not being Slaves or shall attempt or committ any rape on any of the said
Subjects or shall willfully burn any Dwelling House barne Stalls out
House Stacks of Corne or hay or shall willfully mutilate mayhem or

Remember any of the said Subjects not being Slaves as aforesaid or shall
willfully murder any negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave within this Colony
and shall thereof be convicted before three or more of his Majesties ^{Justices} of the
Peace for the County where such fact shall be committed one whereof to be
of the Quorum (who are hereby Authorized to hear and determine the
Same) in conjunction with five of the Principle freeholders of the County
without Grand Jury seven of whom agreeing shall put their Judgement
in Execution according to this Act or before any Court of Oyer and Terminer
or general Gaol Delivery, he she or they so offending shall suffer the pains
of death in such manner and with such Circumstances as the
Aggravation or Enormity of their Crimes, in the Judgement of the Justices
of those Courts aforesaid or as in the Judgement of seven of the said Justices and
freeholders shall merit and require.

Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that upon Complaint
made to any one Justice of the Peace against any negro Indian or Mulatto
Slave or Slaves who have or are supposed to have committed any of the Murders
Rapes Molests Insurrections or Conspiracies mentioned in this Act the said
Justice is Immediately to Issue his warrant to the next Constable to apprehend
the said offender or offenders and for all or any Person or Persons to come
before him that can give Evidence and if upon Examination it appears
that the Slave or Slaves apprehended are guilty, he shall commit him her or
them to prison and also shall certify to the two next Justices of the Peace the
said

Said Cause and require them by Virtue of this Act to associate themselves
to him which the said Justices are hereby require to do and they so associated
are to Issue their Summons to five freeholders acquainting them with the
Cause, and appointing them the time and Place the same shall be heard -
and determined; at which time and Place the Justices are hereby impowered
to appoint some Person to prosecute the said Offender or Offenders and the
Person so appointed, shall prefer an Accusation in writing specifying
the Time Place and Nature of the offence as near as conveniently may be to
which Accusation the Offender or Offenders shall be obliged to plead, ^{and} upon refusal
to plead the Like Judgement shall be given against such Slave or Slaves, so accused
as if convicted by Verdict or Confession, and upon pleading thereto the Justices ~~shall~~
^{proceed} to trial in conjunction with the said freeholders, so summoned as aforesaid
to freeholders no peremptory Challenge shall be allowed, and if upon hearing the
^{which} matter (the said freeholders being first sworn by the said Justices to Judge
according to ~~the~~ Evidence) they shall adjudge such Slave or Slaves guilty of the
offence complained of they shall give sentence of death upon him her or them as a
foresaid, and by that warrant Cause immediate Execution to be done by the Common or
any other Executioner in such Manner as they shall think fit.

Provided always and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid
that if any Master or Mistress of any ~~of~~ Slave or Slaves be inclined to have his
her or their Slave or Slaves tried by a Jury of Twelve men, it shall be granted, such
Master or Mistress paying the charge of the same not Exceeding nine Shillings to the
Jury

Jury then and in such Case there shall a precept be Issued by the Justices to the next Constable to Summon a Jury of twelve men, who shall be sworn to Try according to Evidence, and the Justices shall proceed to Try all by the said Jury Summoned and sworn as aforesaid (without a Grand Jury) to which Jurors no Exemptory Challenge shall be allowed

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Charge of prosecuting and Executing of Negroes and other Slaves in manner before Expressed, shall be paid and defrayed by the City or County where such Negroes or Slaves shall be convicted and Executed, and be layd assessed and Levied in the same manner as the Publick and necessary Charge of such City or County are or used to be Raised and to be distributed by the order and direction of the Justices, hereby Impowered to hear and determine the Crimes of such Negroes or other Slaves offending as aforesaid so as the said Charge shall not Exceed the sum of three pounds Current money of this Colony for each Conviction and Execution

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the owner or owners of a slave or Slaves so Executed in the City and County of Albany or in any of the other Countys within this Colony shall be paid for the same in like manner as the Charges for Prosecution and Execution is by this Act Directed to be assessed Levied and payd Provided the Value of such Slave do not Exceed the sum of Twenty five Pounds Current money of this Colony

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that in the City and County of New York the Justices of the Peace of the said City for the time being or

2 The major part of them do take Effectual Care in Case such Conviction and Execution
happen within their Jurisdiction that such Charge as above said be Raised Levied
and Collected in the same Manner as is directed in an Act Entituled an Act for settling
a Ministry and raising a Maintenance for the them in the City of New York -
County of Richmond, West Chester and Queens County passed in the fifth year of
their Late Majesties King William and Queen Mary, and that the same shall
be paid into the hands of the Treasurer or Chamberlain of the said City for the
time being who is hereby required to pay the same by order and direction of the
Justices hereby impowered to hear and determine the Crimes of such Slave or Slaves
offending as aforesaid, so as the Charge of each Conviction and Execution shall
not Exceed the sum of three pounds Current money of this Colony

And Be it further Enacted by the same Authority that the owner or
owners of such Slave or Slaves which shall happen to be Executed by Virtue of this
Act in the City and County of New York shall be paid for the same, and the money
shall be assessed Collected and paid as in and by this Act the Justices of the Peace
for the said City and County are directed and Impowered to Levy pay and
discharge the prosecution and Execution of Slave or Slaves Provided the price to
be paid for each Slave so Executed do not Exceed the sum of Twenty five pounds
Current money of this Colony

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it shall
not be Lawfull for any Slave or Slaves to have or use any gun Pistoll sword
Club or any other kind of Weapon whatsoever, but in the presence or by the
Direction

Directiōnes his her or their Master or Mistres, and in their own Ground on
Penalty of being whipt for the same at the discretion of the Justice of the Peace
befor whom such Complaint shall come or upon the View of the said Justice not
Exceeding Twenty Lashes on the bare back for every such offence

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that every
Such Justice of the Peace, Constable, Assessor Collector or any other Officer as doe
neglect delay or Refuse the several duties and Services hereby Comand to be Respectively
Done and performed by them shall for every such offence forfeit the Sum of Forty
Shillings, and every freeholder summoned as aforesaid and neglecting or refusing
to serve shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings which Penalties or Penalties
shall be recovered befor any two Justices of the Peace dwelling in the City or
County where such Neglect delay or refusal shall happen, to be Levied on the
goods and Chattels of the offender by a Constable by warrant from such Justices -
who are hereby Impowered and Directed upon such neglect delay or refusal to
Issue their warrant for Levying the same and one half of such Penalties shall
be for the use of the Prosecutor and the other half for the use of the Poor of the
Place where such Penalty shall be Levied ^{and} for Preventing Doubts Scruples or
Confusion concerning the several Acts of General Assembly heretofore passed in
Relation to Slaves

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that all and every the
following Acts, and every Clause article and thing therein or in the Acts for
the Continuance or Revival thereof, shall after the Publication of this Act, be and

Whereby are Repealed and made Null and Void that is to say an Act Entituled an
Act for regulating Slaves passed in the first year of the Late Queen Anne. an Act
Entituled an Act for preventing ^{the} Conspiracy of Slaves passed in the seventh
year of the said Queen an Act for preventing, suppressing and punishing the
Conspiracy and Insurrection of Negroes and other Slaves passed in the Eleventh
year of her said Late Majesty ~~an~~ Act Entituled an Act for Explaining and rendering
more Effectual an Act of the General Assembly of this Colony, Entituled an Act
for preventing suppressing and punishing the Conspiracy and Insurrection
of Negroes and other Slaves passed in the third year of King George the first

New York Oct. 23. 1730

I Assent to this Bill enacting
the same in order it to be enrolled

J. Montgomerie

City of New York Dec. 22^d Oct 1730
In the fourth year of his Majesty's Reign
General Assembly of the Colony of New York
This Bill having been read three times
Resolved

That the Bill do Pass
By order of the General Assembly
D. Charlton Speaker

17
An Act for the more effectual
Preventing and Punishing the
Conspiracy and Insurrection
of Negro and other Slaves for
the better Regulating them
and for Repealing the Acts
herin mentioned Relating
thereto.

Dies Tues 22 Oct^r 1731

This Bill being Passed—
Ordered

That Mr^r Lott —
do carry the Bill to the Council
and desire their Concurrence
thereto—

Rudlow

1730 or Oct. 23. This bill read the first time
and ordered a second reading

Oct. 24. read a second time & committed
Tuesday reported by Mr^r Willard
with^t any amendments & read 3rd time and
pass

D. to printer

An Act for the more Effectual Preventing
and Punishing the Conspiracy and Insurrection
of Negro and other Slaves; for the better regulating
them and for repealing the Acts herein Mentioned
Relating thereto

Whereas many Mischiefs have been occasioned by the too great Liberty allowed to Negro and other Slaves and that some of the Acts relating thereto are Expired and others not fully answering the Good purposes thereby Intended, the General Assembly therefore pray it may be Enacted and be it Enacted by his Excellency the Governour the Council and the General Assembly, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same, that no Person or Persons do hereafter through out this Colony presume to trade or Traffick with any Slave or Slaves either in buying or selling without leave and consent of the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves on forfeiture of treble the Value of the thing or things traded for and also the sum of five pounds Current Lawfull mony to the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves for each offence to be recovered of Such Person or Persons so trading contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act by Action of Debt in any Court of record within this colony where Such Sum or Sums in Cognizable and all Contracts and Bargains made with any Slave or Slaves shall be utterly void. And whereas notwithstanding Sundry

1

Laws

Laws passed heretofore in this Colony for the purposes above Mentioned several evil disposed Persons having nothing in View but their private gain do Clandestinely trade and traffick with Slaves, for remedy whereof Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any person or Persons within this Colony shall from and after the Publication of this Act sell any rum or other strong Liquor to any Negro Indian or Mulato Slave or Slaves or shall buy or take in pawn from them any wares Merchandises apparel – Toolles Instruments or any other kind of goods whatever and shall thereof be accused by the Master or Mistress of Such Slave or Slaves, or by any other Person or Persons before any Justice of the Peace in the City or County where the offender shall dwell or reside, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of forty shillings for every such offence to be recovered with costs before the said Justice of the Peace or before any other Justice Dwelling wheresuch offence is committed (who is hereby strictly required and Directed to hear and finally to determine the same) unless the Person or Persons Accused as above said do take his her or their Corporal Oath which Oath the said Justice is hereby impowered to administer) that he she or they have not either by themselves or by any other Person or Persons on his her or their behalf directly or indirectly sold bought or taken in pawn any of the thing or things of which he she or they shall be accused in manner as aforesaid; which forfeiture shall be one half to the informer the other half for the Poor of the City Town manner or Precinct where such offence is committed and upon non payment of the above mentioned penalty the offending party or parties shall be by the said Justice Committed to the Common Gail thereto remaine for

2

The

The space of twenty days unless the said penalty be sooner paid
And be it further enacted by the same Authority that hereafter it
Shall and may be Lawfull for any Master or Mistress to Punish his her or their Slave
or Slaves for their Crimes and offences at discretion not Extending to Life or

Limb.

And for as much as the Number of Slaves in the City of New York and Albany as also within the several Counties Towns and Mannors within this – Colony both daily increase, and that they have been often times guilty of – Confederating together in running away & of other ill and Dangerous practices

Be it therefore Enacted by the aforesaid Authority that it shall not hereafter be lawfull for above these slaves to meet together at anytime nor at any other Place then when it shall happen they meet in some servile employment for their Master or Mistresses profit and by their master or mistresses consent upon – penalty of being whipt upon the Naked back at the discretion of anyone Justice of the Peace not Exceeding forty lasses for each offense –

And be it further Enacted by the Same Authority that it shall and may be Lawfull hereafter for every City town and Mannor within this Colony to have and appoint a Common whipper for their slaves and for his salary it shall may be lawfull for any City Town or Mannor within this colony at their Common Council or Town meeting to agree upon such sum to be paid him by the master or mistress of slaves, not Exceeding the sum of three shillings per head for all such
3 Slaves

Slaves as shall be whipt as aforesaid and upon ndglect or refusal of the master or mistress to pay the sum so agreed upon as above that then such slave or slaves shall be comitted unitll payment be made with costs, and incase any slave shall presume to assault or strike any Christian or Jew it shall be in the power of any two Justices of the Peace (who by this act or hereto authorized) to committ such slave or slaves to Prison not Exceeding fourteen days for onefact and to – inflict such other Corporal Punishment not Extending to Life or Limb upon him or her or them so offending as to the said Justices shall seem meet and reasonable

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that no Person or Persons whatsoever do hereafter Imploy, Harbor, Conceal or Entertain other mens Slaves, at their House out House or Plantation without the Consent of his her or their master or mistress upon the forfeiture of five pounds for every Twenty Four hours (and so proportionably for a lifetime) they are so concealed or Entertained to the said master or mistress of such slave or slaves, so that the Penalty for Entertaining such slave do not Exceed the value of such slave if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall be found guilty of Harboursing Entertaining or Concealing of any slave or slaves or assisting to the conveying him her or them away if such slave shall happen to be lost dead or otherwise destroyed such Person or Persons so harbouring entertaining concealing assisting or conveying them away, shall be also liable to pay the value of such slave or slaves to the master or mistress to be recovered by action of Debt in any court of record [?] and whereas

4

It often happens that through the lenity of the said master or Person under whose Care the said Negroes or slaves are, the Person so Entertaining and dealing with them are forgiven and not brought to consign punishment to the verry great hurt not only of the said master but of other his majesties liege people owning negroes and other slaves –

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any master Or mistress or Person under whose care any negro or other slave is shall for give make up compound compromise or receive or take any other [?????] consideration than is by this Act prescribed, shall forfeit double the sune the said Person or Persons so entertaining ought to have forfeited to be recovered in any Court of Record within this Colony by action of debt Bill Plaint or Information wherein there shall be no [????] protection wayer of Law or any more these imparlance allowed, one half thereof to any Person that shall sue for the same, the other half to his majesty his heirs and successors for and towards betraying the Publick Charge of the City Town burrough mannon or Precinct in which the master, mistress or Person under whose care the said Negroes or other slaves are, both dwell or Inhabit.

Be it also further Enacted by the same authority that if any Person or Persons Knowing of such Entertainer of slave or slaves and does not discover the same to the master mistress or Person whose care the said slave or Slaves are or to some one Justice of the Peace or being suspected to know upon

5

Compliant

Complaint doth not discover the same or upon tender of an oath before any – Justice of the Peace before whome such complaint shall come (who is hereby Authorized to administer the same) shall refuse to take such oath and purge him her or themselves the said Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing to Discover or take the said oath shall forfeit the sum of Forty Shillings to be immediately after [xx] conviction Levyed upon his [xx] her or their goods and Chattles, to the use of the Person or Persons who shall Informe or complain and in Case there be no goods and Chattles then the body of the Person or Persons offending shall be committed to God till he she or they pay and satisfy the said sum of Forty shillings and charges accruing thereon and if it afterwards appears that any Person or Persons who by the directions in this Act are in any case obliged to purge him, her, or themselves by their oath, have sworn falsly such Person or Persons so offending shall incur the Like pains and penalties as those who are found guilty of willfull perjury and be prosecuted accordingly

And whereas there are man Negroes Indians and Mulattoes who have Formerly been manumitted and made free within this colony by their masters or owners, and it is found by Experience that they entertaine harbor support and Encourage Negro Indian and Mulatto Slaves, to the Great Damage and Detriment of the masters or owners of [xx] slaves and of other of his majesties liege subjects within this Colony –

Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that if any

6

Negro

Negro Indian or mulatto made or born free, or to be made free hereafter shall Knowingly and wittingly Entertain any slave or slaves absenting himself or themselves from his her or their masters or mistress service without leave first given and signified as aforesaid or with out the master or Person under whose care the said slave is, be present, the said negro, Indian or Mulatto so offending shall be fore the with apprehended and forfeit the sum of Ten Pounds for every might or day they are so Entertained to the master or Mistress of such Slave or Slaves to be recovered by Action of debt as aforesaid

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that if any Master or Mistress shall manumit and set at Liberty any Negro Indian or Mulatto Slave, and such Master or Mistress so manumitting and sett

at Liberty, or any other sufficient person for an on behalf such negro Indian or Mulatto slave shall do and Enter into a bond unto his majesty his heirs and successors with two sureties in a sum not Less than two hundred pounds at the General Sessions of the Peace for the County where such Negro Indian or Mulatto slave shall live or reside to keep and save such Negro, Indian or Mulatto Slave from becoming or being any charge to the City Town Parish or Place within this Colony where he she or they shall at any time after such manumission live the said Negro Indian or Mulatto shall be free according to such manumission of the master or – or mistress so manumitting and setting at Liberty such slave or slaves and

7

If

If any Negro Indian or Mulatto slave shall have been made free or after shall be made free by the will or testament of any Person Deceased that these if any Executor or Executors of any Person or Persons Deceased or on their neglect or refusal any other sufficient Person for and on the behalf of such Negro Indian or Mulatto slave shall and do enter into such security as aforesaid at the General Session of Peace for the County where such negro Indian or mulatto slave shall live or reside to keep and have such negro Indian or Mulatto slave from becoming or being any Charge to the City Town Parish or Place within this Colony where he she or they shall at any time after such manumission live, the said Negro Indian or Mulatto slave shall be free according to the true intent and meaning of the will or testament of any Person or Persons deceased, and if security be not given in manner as aforesaid such manumission or devise as before mentioned shall be void and none Effect any usage or Custom to the Contrary – notwithstanding.

And whereas slaves are the Property of Christians or Jews and cannot without great loss or detriment to their masters or mistresses be subjected in all cases criminal to the strict Rules of the Laws of England

Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hereafter if any slave or Slaves by thefor perhaps shall damnify any Person or Persons [xx] To the value of five pounds or under, the master or mistress of such slave or

8

Slaves

Slaves shall be liable to make satisfactory for such Damages to the Party – Injured to be recovered by action of debt in any Court having Jurisdiction and Cognizance of Pleas to that value and the slave or slabs shall receive – corporall punishment at the discretion of anyone Justice of the Peace, and immediatly thereafter (the master or mistress having first paid the charges of such punishment). Be permitted to attend his or her master or mistresses. Service without further punishment

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that hereafter no slave or slaves shall be allowed as Evidence or Evidences in any matter cause or thing whatsoever excepting in case of Plotting or Confederacy among themselves, either to run away kill or destroy their master mistress or any other Person, or burning of houses Barnes, barracks or stacks of hay or of corne or the killing of their master or mistresses Cattle or Horses and that only against one another, in which case the evidence of one slave shall be allowed good against another slave

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that all and Every Negro Indian or other slave or slaves who after the Publication of this act Shall mutilate or otherwise kill unless by misadventure or in the Execution

of Justice, or Conspire or attempt the death of any of his majesties liege people not being slaves or shall attempt or commit any rape on any of the said subjects or shall willfully burn any dwelling House Barne Stable out – House stack of corn or hay shall willfully mutilate mayhem or –

9

Dismember

Dismember any of the said subjects not being slaves as aforesaid or shall willfully murder any negro, Indian or Mulatto slave within this Colony and shall thereof be Convicted before three or more of his majesties Justices of the Peace or the County where such fact shall be committed one whereof to be of the Quorum (who are hereby Authorized to hear and determine the Same) in Conjunction with five of the Principle freeholders of the County without a Grand Jury seven of whom agreeing shall put their judgement in Execution according to this act or before any court of [???] and [????????] or general Good Delivery he she or they so offending shall suffer the pains of death in such manner and with such circumstances as the – Aggravation or Enormity of the Crimes, in the judgement of the Justice of those Courts aforesaid or as in the Judgement of the seven of the said Justices are freeholders shall merit and require.

Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that upon Complaint Made to anyone Justice of the Peace against any negro Indian or Mulatto Slave or Slaves who have or are supposed to have committed any of the murders – Rapes Maheymys Insurrections or Conspires mentioned in this Act the said Justice is immediately to issue his warrant to the next Constable to apprehend the said offender or offenders and fore all or any Person or Persons to come – before him that can give Evidence and if upon Examination it appears that the slave or slaves apprehended are guilty, he shall Comitt him her or them to prison and also shall certifie to the two next Justices of the Peace the

10

Said

Said cause and require them by virtue of the Act to apocate them services to him which the said Justices are hereby require[d] to do and they so associated are to issue their summons to five freeholders acquainting them with the Cause, and appointing them the time and Place the same shall be heard – and dermined; at with time and Place the Justices are hereby impowered to appoint some Person or prosecute the said offender or offenders and the Person so appointed, shall prefer an accusation in writing specifying the Time Place and Nature of the offence as ner as Conveniently may be to – which accusation the offender or offenders shall be obligated to plead, and upon refusal to plead the Like Judgement shall be given against such slave or slaves so acussed as if convicted by verdict or confession, and upon pleading thereto the Justice shall proceed to trial in conjunction with the said free holders, so summoned as aforesaid to which freeholders no preemptory Challenge shall be allowed, and if upon hearing the matter (the said freeholders being first sworn by the said Justices to Judge – according to [xx] Evidence) they shall adjudge such slave or slavers guilty of the offence complained of they shall give sentences of death upon him her or them as a foresaid, and by their warrant cause immediate Execution to be done by the comonor any other Execution in such manner as they shall think fitt.

Provided allways and it is hereby further Enacted by the Authorities aforesaid that if any Master or Misstress of any [xx] slave or slaves be inclined to have his her or their slave or slaves tryed by a jury of Twelve men, it shall be granted, such Master or Misstress paying the Charge of the same not Exceeding nine shillings to the

11

Jury

Jury then and in such case there shall a precept be issued by the Justice to the next Constable to summon a Jury of twelve men, who shall be sworn to try according to Evidence, and the Justices shall proceed to Try all by the said jury summoned and sworn as aforesaid (without a Grand Jury) to which Jurors no preemptory challenge shall be allowed

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the charge of prosecuting and executing of negroes and other slaves in manner before – Expressed, shall be paid and defrayed by the City or County where such negroes or Slaves shall be convicted and Executed, and belayed assessed and levied in the same manner as the Public and necessary Charge of such City or County are or used to be Raised and to be distributed by the order and the direction of the Justices, hereby impowered to hear and determine the crimes of such negro or other slaves offending as aforesaid so as the said charge shall not Exceed the sum of three pounds current mony of – this Colony for each conviction and Execution

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the owner or Owners of a slave or slaves so Executed in the City or County of Albany or in any of the other counties within this Colony shall be paid for the same in like manner as the Charges for Prosecution and Execution is by this Act Directed to be assessed. Levyed and pay'd Provided the value of such slave do not Exceed the sum of Twenty five Pounds Current mony of this Colony

And be it further Enacted by the same Authority that in the City and County of New York the Justices of the Peace of said City for the time being or

12

The

The Major part of them do take Effectual care in case such conviction and execution Happen within their jurisdiction that such charge as above said be Raised Levyed and collected in the same manner as is directed in an Act Entitled an Act for Settling a Ministry and raising a maintenance for the them in the City of New York – County of Richmond, West Chester and Queens County passed in the fifth year of their state majesties King Williams and Queen Mary, and that the same shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of Chamberlain of the said City for the time being who is hereby required to pay the same by order and direction of the Justices hereby impowered to hear and determine the crimes of such slave or slaves offending as aforesaid, so as the charge of each Conviction and Execution shall not Exceed the sum of three pounds current mony of this Colony.

And Be it further Enacted by the same Authority that the owner or owners of such slave or slaves which shall happen to be Executed by Virtue of this Act in the City and County of New York shall be paid for the same, and the mony shall be assessed collected and paid as in and by this Act the Justices of the Peace, for the said City and County are directed and impowered to Levy and pay and – discharge the prosecution and execution of slave or slaves Provided the price to be paid for each slave so Executed do not Exceed the sum of Twenty Five Pounds current mony of this Colony.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that it shall not be lawfull for any Slave or slaves to have or use any gun Pistoll sword Club or any other kind of weapon whatsoever, but in the presence or by the –

13

Direction

Direction of his her or their master or mistress, and in their own ground on Penalty of being whipt for the same at the discretion of the Justice of the Peace Befor whom such complaint shall come or upon the View of the said Justice not Exceeding Twenty Lashes on the bare back for every such offence –

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that every

Such Justice of the peace, constable, assessor collector or any other officer as do – neglect delay or Refuse the several duties and services hereby Enjoyed to be Respectively Done and performed by them shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of Fourty Shillings, and every freeholder summoned as aforesaid and neglecting or refusing to serve shall forfeit the sum of Twenty shillings which Penalty or Penalties shall be recovered before any tow Justices of the Peace dwelling in the City or County where such neglect delay or refusal shall happen, to be served on the goods and Chattle of the offender by a constable by warrant from such Justices – who are hereby impowered and Directed upon such neglect delay or refusal to Issue their warrant for levying the same and one half of such penalties shall be for the use of the Prosecutor and the other half for the use of the Poor of the Place where such Penalty shall be levy'd and for preventing Doubts Scruples or Confusion concerning the several Acts of General Assembly heretofore passed in Relation to slaves

Be it Enacted by the authority aforesaid that all and every the following Acts and every clause articles and thing therein or in the Acts for the Continuance or Revival thereof, shall after the Publication of this Act, be and
 14 hereby

Hereby are repealed and made null and void that is to say an Act Entitled an Act for regulating slaves passed in the first year of the Late Queen Anne. an Act Entitled an Act for preventing the Conspiracy of slaves passed in the Seventeenth year of the said Queen an Act for preventing, suppressing and punishing the conspiracy and insurrection of Negroes and other slaves passed in the Eleventh year of her said Late Majesty an Act Entitled an Act for Explaining and rendering more Effectual an Act of the General Assembly of this Colony, Entitled an Act for preventing suppressing and punishing the Conspiracy and Insurrection of Negroes and other slaves passed in the third year of King George the first

New York Oct. 20. 1730

[?] Afford to their [?][?]
 This law [?][?][?][?][?]
 J Montgomeree

City of New York Directories 22 Oct 1730
 In the fourth year of his Majesties Reign
 General Assembly of the Colony of New York
 This Bill having been read three times &
 Resolved
 That the Bill do Pass
 By order of the General Assembly
 C.D. [Illegible Signature] Speaker
 [?]

17

An Act for the more Effectual Preventing and Punishing the Conspiracy and Insurrection of Negro and other slaves: for The better Regulating them and for Repealing the Acts – Wherein mentioned Relating here to.

D[?] [?] 22 Oct. 1730
 This Bill being Passed –

Ordered

That Mr. Lott –
do carry the Bill to the Council
and desire their concurrence
thereto –

[Illegible signature]

1730. Oct. 23 This Bill Read [?] [?]
and ordered a second reading

Oct. 24. Read aloud [?] [?]

Someday[?] [?] [?] [?]

with any amendments read[?] [?] [?]

Pass

[illegible signature]