

Hire of Servants, &c.
to be in Writing, &c.

Preamble.

No Person hereaf-
ter to be hired with-
out Certificate, &c.

Proviso.

Penalty on Persons
making false Declara-
tion.

Mode of recovery,
&c.

Servants hired for a
Year, &c. not to quit
their Service, without
giving previous notice.

Penalty on Neglect.

Servants hired for 6
Months, &c. not to quit
their Masters,
&c. without sufficient
Warning.

Penalty on Neglect.

Masters to give like
Warning to Servants.

Publication hereof, all Contracts hereafter to be made in this Island, relative to the Hire of Servants (if for the Term of One Month, or any longer Term, and which shall be deemed and taken to be within the Purview and Operation of this Act) shall be reduced to Writing and signed by the Parties thereto, or made in the presence of two or more credible Witnesses.

And Whereas many Persons have been injured by their Servants being seduced from their Service, and employed and entertained by others :

ALL Be it therefore further enacted, That no Person or Persons hereafter shall hire any Servant, male or female, without a Certificate from his or her last Master or Mistress in Writing, therein expressing the Discharge of such Servant from his or her Service. And all Persons discharging such Servant are hereby required and directed to give him or her such Discharge, on Pain of forfeiting, for each Offence respectively, the Sum of *Forty Shillings*, to him or them who shall or may inform and sue for the same. *Provided nevertheless*, that all Persons hereafter offering themselves as Servants, and who shall alledge that they never were at Service before in this Island, shall sign a Declaration to that Purport or Effect, the same to be witnessed by one credible Witness, or make a verbal Declaration to the like Effect before two credible Witnesses. And all Persons making such Declaration, and which afterwards shall be proved to be false, shall for such Offence forfeit the Sum of *Forty Shillings*, the same to be recovered before one or more of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, by Warrant of Distress and Sale made of such Offenders Goods and Chattels : And for want of Goods sufficient to discharge the said Forfeiture, the said Justice or Justices are hereby empowered to commit such Offender to his Majesty's Gaol, at Charlottee-Town, in the ordinary and due Course of Law ; there to remain the Space of *Fifteen Days*, or until the said Forfeiture shall be satisfied and paid.

III. And be it further enacted, That no Servant hereafter to be hired for a Year, or for any longer Space of Time, shall quit or depart his Master's Service, without signifying such his Intention at least Two Months before the Expiration of such Period of Service, upon pain of losing his Wages for the whole Year, or so much thereof as shall then remain due and unpaid : and in Case none shall then remain due and unpaid, then upon Complaint and Proof thereof made before any One of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, such Justice is hereby authorised and empowered to commit such Offender to Gaol, in Manner as is herein before directed ; there to remain for the Space of *One Month*. And all Servants who shall hereafter be hired for the Term of Six Months, or for any longer space of Time short of a Year, and shall quit or depart their Masters or Mistres' Service, without signifying such their Intention as aforesaid at least One Month before the expiration of the last mentioned Period of Service, shall, in like Manner, forfeit the whole of their Wages, or so much thereof as shall then remain due and unpaid. And if none shall remain due and unpaid, then to suffer *One Month's* Imprisonment as aforesaid. And that all Masters shall be bound to give the like Warning to their Servants.

IV. And be it further enacted, That all Masters or Mistresses hereafter hiring Servants, shall give the like Warning to their Servants, as their Servants are by this Act required to give their respective Masters, on Pain of forfeiting