

the time being, or of any Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, or shall have otherwise come into the possession of any person, by gift, bequest, or *bonâ fide* purchase before the passing of this Act, whose property therein is hereby confirmed, or to vacate or annul any contract for service that may heretofore have been lawfully made and entered into, or to prevent parents or guardians from binding out children until they shall have obtained the age of twenty-one years.

Nothing herein to extend to contracts for service already made, nor to parents or guardians.

III. And in order to prevent the continuation of Slavery within this Province, *be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That immediately from and after the passing of this Act, every child that shall be born of a Negro mother, or other woman subjected to such service as aforesaid, shall abide and remain with the master or mistress in whose service the mother shall be living at the time of such child's birth, (unless such mother and child shall leave such service by and with the consent of such master or mistress,) and such master or mistress shall, and is hereby required to give proper nourishment and clothing to such child or children, and shall and may put such child or children to work when he, she or they, shall be able so to do, and shall and may retain him or her in their service until every such child shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, at which time they and each of them shall be entitled to demand his or her discharge from, and shall be discharged by such master or mistress, from any further service: And to the end that the age of such child or children may be more easily ascertained, the master or mistress of the mother thereof, shall, and is hereby required, to cause the day of the birth of every such child as shall be born of a Negro, or other mother subjected to the condition of a Slave, in their service as aforesaid; to be registered within three months after its birth, by the Clerk of the parish, township or place, wherein such master or mistress reside; which Clerk shall be authorised to demand and receive the sum of one shilling for registering the same; and in case any master or mistress shall refuse or neglect to cause such register to be made, within the time aforesaid, and shall be convicted thereof, either on his or her confession, or by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, before any Justice of the Peace, he or she shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of five pounds, to the public stock of the District.

The children that shall be born of female slaves, to remain in the service of the owner of their mother, until the age of 25 years, when they shall be discharged.

Birth of the children of slaves to be recorded.

Penalty for neglecting or refusing to record the same.

IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That in case any master or mistress shall detain any such child, born in their service as aforesaid; after the passing of this Act, under any pretence whatever; after such servant shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, except by virtue of a contract of service or indentures, duly and voluntarily executed after such discharge as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such servant to apply for a discharge to any of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who shall and is hereby required thereupon to issue a summons to such master or mistress to appear before him, to shew cause why such servant should not be discharged; and the proof that such servant is under the age of twenty-five years shall rest upon and be adduced by the master or mistress of such servant, otherwise it shall and may be lawful

Remedy against the undue detention of such children.