

in North America, and to make further provision for the government of the said province," and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this act, so much of a certain act of the parliament of Great-Britain, passed in the thirtieth year of his present majesty, entitled, "An act for encouraging new settlers in his majesty's colonies and plantations in America," as may enable the governor, or lieutenant governor of this province, heretofore parcel of his majesty's province of Quebec, to grant a licence for importing into the same any Negroe or Negroes, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that from and after the passing of this act, it shall not be lawful for the governor, lieutenant governor or person administering the government of this province, to grant a licence for the importation of any negroe, or other person to be subjected to the condition of a slave, or to a bounden involuntary service for life into any part of this province; nor shall any negroe, or other person who shall come or be brought into this province after the passing of this act, be subject to the condition of a slave, or to such service as aforesaid, within this province, nor shall any voluntary contract or indenture of service that may be entered into by any parties within this province, after the passing of this act, be binding on them, or either of them, for a longer time than a term of nine years from the day of the date of such contract.

II. *Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend to liberate any negroe, or other person subjected to such service as aforesaid, or to discharge them or any of them from the possession of the owner thereof, his or her executors, administrators or assigns, who shall have come or been brought into this province, in conformity to the conditions prescribed by any authority for that purpose exercised, or by any ordinance or law of the province of Quebec, or by proclamation of any of his majesty's governors of the said province for 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 *bona 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.

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 cloathing 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 authorized 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

Recital of act
30 Geo. III.

the same in
part repealed.

Provisions a-
gainst the fur-
ther introduc-
tion of slaves,

term of servi-
tude by con-
tract limited.

The owners of
slaves at pre-
sent within the
province, con-
firmed in their
property
therein.

nothing herein
to extend to
contracts for
service alrea-
dy made, nor to
parents or
guardians.

The children
that shall be
born of female
slaves, to re-
main 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 re-
corded-

penalty for
neglecting or
refusing to re-
cord the same.