

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 untill they shall have attained 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 Negroe Mother, or other woman subjected to such service as aforesaid, shall bide 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 & 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 intitled 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 Negroe or other Mother subjected to the condition of a slave in their service as aforesaid, to be registered within three months after it's 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 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.

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 for the said Justice to discharge such servant from such service as aforesaid. Provided always, that in case any issue shall be born of such Children during their infant servitude, or after, such issue shall be intitled to all the rights and privileges of Free born Subjects.

V. And be it further enacted, that whenever any Master or Mistress shall liberate or release any person subject to the condition of a slave from their service, they shall at the same time give good and sufficient security to the Church or Town Wardens of the Parish or Township where they live, that the person so released by them shall not become chargeable to the same, or any other Parish or Township.