

said Sheriff to sell any negro, mulatto, or other slaves so seized and taken by him under this Act, to the Colonization Society, for said five dollars; and the prison fees of any negro, mulatto, or other slave to be taken to Liberia; and if the said Colonization Society will not receive such negroes, mulattoes, or other slaves for said five dollars each, and the prison fees of each, upon refusing, said Sheriff shall, after three weeks public notice, given by public advertisements, sell any such negro, mulatto, or other slave, to some person or persons, with a condition that any such negro, mulatto, or other slave, shall be removed and taken forthwith beyond the limits of this State, to settle and reside; and said Sheriff shall report any sale or sales made by him to the County Court of the County in which he resides; and after deducting five dollars and prison fees for each and every negro, mulatto or other slave, sold as aforesaid, which shall be settled by an account current, to be settled in said Court, said Sheriff shall pay over the balance of said sales to the Treasurer of the shore where he may reside; *Provided*, That this Act shall not be so construed as to prevent any person or persons residing in this or any adjoining State, and who hold their own right or in right of any other person, lands in both States within ten miles of each other, from removing their slaves to and from said lands, solely for the cultivation and improvement of the same; *And provided, also*, The names, ages, and sex, of any slaves so removed, shall be recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of such County in this State, into which the said negroes shall be so removed, within thirty days after their removal.

*SEC. 5 And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of all Justices of the Peace in the County, upon information being given them, or any of them, that any negro, mulatto, or other slaves, hath been brought into this State contrary to this Act, to issue warrant for any person or persons so offending, in the name of the State of Maryland, and upon any person or persons being brought before him on said warrant, chargeable with the offence aforesaid, to cause any such person or persons to enter into recognizance for her, his or their personal appearance before the Judges of the County Court to plead and answer to whatsoever may be there alleged in that behalf, with such penalty in said recognizance as said Justice of the Peace shall approve; and upon refusal to give such recognizance, such person or persons, so offending, shall be committed to the said jail of the County by said Justice of the Peace, to be confined until the next meeting of the County Court of the County in which said offence shall be committed.

*SEC. 6. And be it enacted*, That no free negro or mulatto shall be suffered to keep or carry a firelock of any kind, any military weapon, or any powder or lead, without first obtain-

Negroes to be sold for \$5. Conditionally.

Or sold out of the state. Report of sales required.

Disposition of proceeds.

Exception in favor of border land holders, &c.

On information of a slave being introduced.

Warrant directed.

Recognizance required.

Or committal.

Negroes forbid to have firelocks, &c.

ing a license from the Court of the County or Corporation in which he resides; which license shall be annually renewed, and be at any time withdrawn by an order of said Court, or any Judge thereof; and any free negro or mulatto who shall disregard this provision, shall, on conviction, thereof before a Justice of the Peace, for the first offence pay the cost of prosecution, and forfeit all such arms to the use of the informer; and for the second or any subsequent offence shall, in addition to such costs and forfeiture, be punished with stripes, at the discretion of the Justice, not exceeding thirty-nine, or be subject to the penalties of felony.

*SEC. 7. And be it enacted*, That it shall not be lawful for any free negro or negroes, slave or slaves, to assemble or attend any meetings for religious purposes, unless conducted by a white licensed or ordained preacher or some respectable white person or persons of the neighborhood as may be duly authorised by such licensed or ordained preacher, during the continuance of such meeting; and if any such meeting shall be held without being conducted as aforesaid, they shall be considered as unlawful and tumultuous meetings; and it shall be the duty of the nearest Constable, or any other civil officer knowing of such meetings, either from his own knowledge or the information from others, to repair to such meeting, and disperse the said negroes or slaves; and if any such Constable shall fail to comply with the provisions of this Act, he shall be subject to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars, at the discretion of a Justice of the Peace of the County in which he resides, whose duty it shall be to impose the fine, on information being given of such neglect; and return the proceedings and judgment on the same to the Clerk of the County, who shall enter it upon the proper docket to be collected and applied as other fines and forfeitures now are; *Provided*, That this Act shall not interfere with any right of an owner or employer of any slave or slaves, to allow his own servants, or those employed by him or her, to have prayers or other religious service upon his own land; *And provided, also*, That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prevent the assemblage, within the limits of Baltimore City and Annapolis City, of such slaves, or free negroes and mulattoes, for the purpose of religious worship, if said meetings are held in compliance with the written permission of a white licensed ordained preacher, and dismissed before ten o'clock at night.

*SEC. 8. And be it enacted*, That all free negroes or mulattoes who shall be found associating, or in any company with slaves, at any unlawful or tumultuous meeting, either by day or night, or who shall, in connection with any slave or slaves, as principal or accessory, be guilty of, and convicted of, any offence for which slaves are now punishable, before a Justice of the Peace, such free negro or mulatto shall be subject to the same punishment, and be liable in every respect to the same treatment and penalty as slaves thus offending.

Without license. License revokable.

Penalty.

Stripes.

Religious meetings of negroes forbid without. Except attendance, &c.

Such meetings deemed unlawful.

Duty of Constables, &c. to disperse them. Incur penalty for neglecting.

Magistrates duty to indict the penalty.

Return of proceedings.

Provisio.

Further exception—Baltimore and Annapolis.

Free negroes found associating in such unlawful meetings, liable to be punished as slaves.