

Calvert
Papers
No. 486
1752

the testimony or Evidence of other Slaves Corroborated with such pregnant circes as shall convince the Jury who shall trye the fact of the guilt of such Slaves to give Judgm.^t according to the nature and quality of the Offence

By next Sect.ⁿ A Slave giving false Testimony against another Slave shall have one Ear Cut off on the day of Conviction and receive 39 Stripes on the naked back and the other Ear shall be Cropped the next day with y^e like Number of Stripes.

By the 8.th Sect.ⁿ If a Slave shall/int. a &/be Guilty of Rambling or going abroad in the Night The Justices of the County Court are obliged upon the application of the Owner or of any other Person injured by such Slave immediately to punish the Slave by Whipping Cropping or Branding in the Cheek with the Letter R. or otherwise not extending to Life or to render such Slave unfit for Labour

This Likewise is made a temporary Law for 3 years & to the end of the next Session of Assembly.

3.^d As to the 3.^d Act—Which is an Act for Aiding the Title of Purchasers of Lots in Princess Ann Town

It is to be Considered whether the Act is not Calculated to give the Purchasers/this aid at the expence of the Lord Prop.^{ty}

The Objects of this Act are first 25 Acres of Land/Supposed to have been heretofore the right of David Brown/Laid out into 30. Lots & Erected into a Town called Princess Ann Town many of which have been taken up & well Improved & others Secured tho not built on—and 2.^{dly} Some other Land called the Publick ground on which the Court House &c. have been placed—And the Act recites a doubt concerning the Title of the s.^d Lots/Viz.^t the 25. Acres/which are Supposed to be Escheat to the Lord Prop.^{ty}

And Enacts That where any Person hath taken upon Purchased or shall hereafter take upon Purchase any Lot or part of a Lot in the s.^d Town & shall pay for the use of the Lord Prop.^{ty} 20.^s Sterling for such Lot or in proportion for part of a Lot only to the Clerk of the s.^d County Such Paym.^t Shall after Enrolm.^t of the receipt to be paid for the same Invest the Owner of such Lot with an Indefeazible Estate of Inheritance in fee Simple in such Lot So taken up and Purchased.

And upon Paym.^t of the like 20.^s Sterling to the use of the Lord Prop.^{ty} for the Publick ground The fee Simple thereof is in like manner vested in the Justices of the County.

Now the only view of this Act is to obviate Doubts concerning the Lord Prop.^{ty}s right & to vest a fee Simple in Purchasers in Opposition to that right And by this Act the Lands are vested in the Purchasers so as never to revert to the Lord Prop.^{ty}

Nor are there any Quit Rents reserved to the Lord.