

CAP. XXVII.

An Act encouraging new settlers in His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America.

WHEREAS it is expedient that encouragement should be given to persons that are disposed to come and settle in certain of His Majesty's Colonies and plantations in America and the West Indies; Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of August, one thousand seven hundred and ninety, if any person or persons, being a subject or subjects of the territory or countries belonging to the United States of America, shall come from thence together with his or their family or families, to any of the Bahama, Bermuda, or Somers Islands, or to any part of the Province of Quebec or Novascotia, or any of the territories belonging to his Majesty in North America, for the purpose of residing and settling there, it shall and may be lawful for any such person or persons having first obtained a license for that purpose from the Governor, or in his absence, the Lieut. Governor of the said Islands, Colonies, or Provinces respectively, to import the same in British ships, owned by his Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to law, *Any Negroes*, household furniture, utensils of husbandry or clothing, free of duty: provided always that such household furniture, utensils of husbandry and clothing, shall not in the whole exceed the value of fifty pounds, for every white person that shall belong to such family; *and the value of forty shillings for every negro brought by such white person;* and if any dispute shall arise as to the value of such household furniture, utensils of husbandry or clothing, the same shall be heard and determined by the arbitration of three British merchants, at the port where the same shall be imported, one of such merchants to be appointed by the Governor, or in his absence the Lieut. Governor of such Islands or Province, one by the collector of the customs at such port and one by the person so coming with his family.

And be it further enacted, That all sales or bargains for the sale of any *Negro*, household furniture, utensils of husbandry, or clothing so imported, which shall be made within twelve calendar months after the importing of the same, (except in cases of bankruptcy or death of the owner thereof,) shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

And be it further enacted, That every white person so coming to reside, if above the age of fourteen years, shall, and he is hereby required, immediately after his arrival, to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, before the Governor, Lieut. Governor, or chief magistrate of the place where such persons shall arrive, and at the same time swear that it is his intention to reside and settle in such Island and Province, for which oaths, such Governor, Lieut. Governor, or chief Magistrate shall receive the same fee and no more, as is payable by law on administering the oath of allegiance in cases where the same is now by law required.