

the colonies to which they may respectively belong : and that it will also be necessary, for the protection of such apprenticed labourers as aforesaid, that various regulations should be framed and established in the said respective colonies, for securing punctuality and method in the supply to them of such food, clothing, lodging, medicines, medical attendance, and such other maintenance and allowances as they are, by the said Act, declared entitled to receive; and for regulating the amount and quality of all such articles in cases where the laws at present existing in any such colony may not, in the case of slaves, have made any regulation, or any adequate regulation, for that purpose; and that it is also necessary that proper rules should be established for the prevention and punishment of any frauds which might be practised, or of any omissions or neglects which might occur, respecting the quantity or the quality of the supplies so to be furnished, or respecting the periods for the delivery of the same; and that it is necessary, in those cases in which the food of any such prædial apprenticed labourers as aforesaid may, either wholly or in part, be raised by themselves, by the cultivation of ground to be set apart and allotted for that purpose, that proper regulations should be made and established as to the extent of such grounds, and as to the distance at which such grounds may be so allotted from the ordinary place of abode of such prædial apprenticed labourers, and respecting the deductions to be made for the cultivation of such grounds from the annual time during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereinbefore declared liable to labour; and that it may also be necessary, by such regulations as aforesaid, to secure to the said prædial apprenticed labourers the enjoyment, for their own benefit, of that portion of their time during which they are not hereby required to labour in the service of their respective employers, and for securing exactness in the computation of the time, during which such prædial apprenticed labourers are hereby required to labour in the service of such their respective employers; and that it is also necessary that provision should be made for preventing the imposition of task work on any such apprenticed labourer, without his or her free consent to undertake the same; but that it may be necessary, by such regulations in certain cases, to require and provide for the acquiescence of the minority of the prædial apprenticed labourers attached to any plantation or estate, in the distribution and apportion-

ment amongst the whole body of such labourers of any task work, which the majority of such body shall be willing and desirous collectively to undertake; and that it is also necessary that regulations should be made respecting any voluntary contracts, into which any apprenticed labourers may enter with their respective employers, or with any other person, for hired service for any future period, and for limiting the greatest period of time to which such voluntary contract may extend, and for enforcing the punctual and effectual performance of such voluntary contracts on the part both of such apprenticed labourers, and of the person or persons engaging for their employment and hire; and that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for the prevention or punishment of any cruelty, injustice, or other wrong or injury which may be done to, or inflicted upon, any such apprenticed labourers by the persons entitled to their services; and that it is also necessary that proper regulations should be made respecting the manner and form in which such indentures of apprenticeship as aforesaid, shall be made on behalf of such children as aforesaid, and respecting the registering and preservation of all such indentures; and that it is also necessary that provision should be made for ensuring promptitude and despatch, and for preventing all unnecessary expence in the discharge by the Justices of the Peace, holding such special commissions as in the said Act mentioned of the jurisdiction and authorities thereby committed to them, and for enabling such Justices to decide in a summary way, such questions as may be brought before them in that capacity, and for the division of the said respective colonies in districts, for the purposes of such jurisdiction, and for the frequent and punctual visitation by such Justices of the Peace of the apprenticed labourers within such their respective districts; and that it is also necessary that regulations should be made for indemnifying and protecting such Justices of the Peace in the upright execution and discharge of their duties; and that such regulations as aforesaid could not, without great inconvenience, be made except by the respective Governors, Councils, and Assemblies, or other local legislatures of the said respective colonies, or by His Majesty, with the advice of His Privy Council, in reference to those colonies to which the legislative authority of His Majesty in Council extends:

It is therefore enacted and declared, in and by