

Indians now in Amity with them, or punishing Trespasses committed on their Lands: For Remedy whereof,

Liber H. S.
No. 1

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Justices of the several County Courts, in this Province, be, and are hereby authorized and impowered to hear and determine, in a summary Manner, upon Petition exhibited to them, all Manner of Controversies and Differences, Claims and Demands, of what Nature or Kind so ever, which have happened, and not yet determined, or may hereafter happen or arise between the said Inhabitants and Indians, in private and personal Controversies, and award Judgment thereon, so always as the same exceed the Value of twenty Shillings Sterling, and the Person or Persons against whom such Complaint be made, be summoned to answer the same, or shall voluntarily appear thereto, and the said Justices shall and may issue Execution or Executions on such their Judgment, with Costs of Suit, as in other Cases.

[Justices of the County Courts to hear and determine all Controversies, &c. between the Inhabitants and Indians.]

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And whereas divers Persons, notwithstanding the Laws of this Province to the contrary, have rented of the said Indians divers Parcels of their said Lands, and settled thereon, and yet, notwithstanding, refuse to pay them the Rents agreed to be paid: And whereas it is highly just and reasonable that those Persons, who have held and occupied the said Lands, under Agreement to pay Rent for the same, should pay the Rents so agreed for, according to their Contracts:

Be it Enacted, by and with the Authority, Advice, and Consent, aforesaid, That the Justices of the several County Courts aforesaid, shall and may, and are hereby authorized and impowered, to hear and determine all such Complaints, and give Judgment thereon to the said Indians for the Rents agreed to be paid, with Costs, in a summary Manner, as before by this Act is directed, and shall and may award Execution thereon; any Law or Custom, to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding.

[Justices to hear and determine all Complaints made by the said Indians against Persons who have rented their Lands, and refused Payment.]

And whereas divers Persons have committed divers Trespasses and Wastes on such of the said Indian Lands, which have not been granted to any of the Inhabitants of this Province, by falling, mauling, and carrying away the Timber off from such Land, and refuse to pay and satisfy the said Indians for the same: For Remedy whereof,

Be it Enacted, That the Justices of the County Courts where the said Lands do lie, are hereby impowered and directed, upon Complaint to them made by the said Indians of any Trespasses as aforesaid that have been committed, or that shall or may at any Time hereafter be committed, on such of the aforesaid Indian Lands, and making the same appear by the Oath of one sufficient Evidence, to

[Justices, on Complaint of Trespasses, to summon a Jury of 18, and assess Damages.]