

L. H. J.
Liber No. 51
April 9

acquiring and transferring Lands in this Province) or those claiming by, from or under them, should not be prejudiced by a Misapprehension of their own Capacities, or of those under whom they claim;

II. Be it therefore 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 all Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, within this Province, which have been at any Time heretofore patented to any Alien, or being patented to any natural born Subject, have been purchased by any Alien, and that all Deeds, Conveyances and Devises thereof, heretofore made, shall be deemed, construed and taken, to have passed, descended, operated and enured, to all Intents, Constructions and Purposes, as fully and effectually as they would have done if such Patentees, Vendors and Vendees, Donors and Donees, Devisors and Devises, and their Issue and Collaterals, were natural born Subjects of this Province; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

III. And whereas several Aliens have heretofore, thro' Inacquaintance with the Laws of this Province, taken Conveyances from other Persons of Lands not patented, or have themselves settled, built and improved, upon Lands in this Province, without having at any Time obtained Patent for the same;

IV. Be it therefore Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all such Aliens, as have already purchased, or settled
p. 267 Lands, within this Province, not patented for all others now claiming by, from or under them, to apply at any Time within one Year from the Commencement of this present Session of Assembly, to the Land-Office of this Province, by Petition setting forth the true State of their Claim, and proceeding and submitting to the Examination of the Judge, the Evidences, Papers and Proofs, of or relating to the Allegations therein contained, to demand a Warrant (wherein the several Allegations in the Petition shall be recited) to the Surveyor of the County where such Lands lie, to lay out such Quantity, to be therein expressed (not interfering with elder Surveys, or Lands cultivated by any other Person or Persons than those, by, from or under whom they claim) as the Party shall require; and upon Return of a Certificate thereof, the Rights being complied with as for a Common Warrant, Patent (reciting likewise the several Allegations in the Petition) shall issue accordingly.

V. And be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice, and Consent, aforesaid, That when such Patent shall issue, the Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, thereby intended to be granted, and all Deeds, Conveyances and Devises thereof, at any Time heretofore