

which lay within this province, wherein such feme covert hath the estate of inheritance, or taken only to bar her of dower, where she resides out of this province, shall be so taken; for remedy whereof, and to direct the method of taking the acknowledgment of such feme coverts for the future, it is humbly prayed that it may be enacted,

Non-resident feme coverts may acknowledge, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted by the right honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's President, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That from and after the end of this session of assembly, where any lands, tenements or hereditaments, lying and being within this province, shall be conveyed by any deed whatsoever, wherein any feme covert shall be named as a bargainor or vendor, for transferring her estate of inheritance in such lands, tenements or hereditaments as aforesaid, or wherein such feme covert may have right or claim of dower, only where any such feme covert as aforesaid shall, at the time of her executing such deed, reside and be out of this province, in Great Britain, Ireland, or within any province or colony within his majesty's dominions, it shall and may be lawful for any such feme covert to acknowledge such deed, and be examined apart from, and out of the hearing of her husband, before the mayor of some corporation within Great Britain or Ireland, or before one of the justices of the supreme or provincial court of such province or colony within his majesty's dominions, whether she doth make her acknowledgment of the same willingly and freely, and without being induced thereto by fears or threats of, or ill usage by her husband, or fear of his displeasure; and the mayor or justice so taking such acknowledgment as aforesaid, and certifying the said examination and acknowledgment, by an endorsement upon such deed or writing under his hand, and the seal of such corporation, where taken before a mayor, or the seal of the province or colony within his majesty's dominions where taken, and a certificate of such private examination and acknowledgment, so as aforesaid to be taken and made, shall be adjudged and deemed good and available in law, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, to bar such feme covert of her right of inheritance or dower, as the case may be, to said lands, tenements and hereditaments, according to the purport of such deed or acknowledgment, as fully and effectually as if, at the time of executing and acknowledging such deed, she had been residing within this province, and had here made such acknowledgment, agreeable to the direction of the aforesaid act, and no further, or otherwise, any law, usage or custom, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.