

freely stay on shore to examine the windings and courses aforesaid, but marking some trees by the side of such rivers, creeks, &c. did, without further trouble, prescribe certain bounds and courses to the several tracts by them surveyed, or intended to be surveyed, and the said bounds are generally expressed in such uncertain terms, and being many times contradictions, and inconsistent in themselves, whereby it comes to pass that at this time is very uncertain, and many chargeable and tedious suits in law happen about such bounds, which are most times, (as it were,) by the favour and inclinations of jurors, arbitrarily determined differing ways in parallel cases; to prevent which for the future, and that judgment may go more direct, and that neighbours may more certainly know their bounds, and avoid trespassing upon one another, and for the more general ascertaining the metes and limits of every particular man's land, there can be no better way than by a law to put one certain interpretation upon such contradictory expressions observed to be in ancient certificates, and by demonstrating one example of each interpretation in a fair parchment, to be to this act annexed as part of the said act; wherefore the delegates and representatives of the city of Saint Mary's, and of the several and respective Counties of this Province humbly pray that it may be enacted,

AND BE IT ENACTED, *by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of this present General Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That if any man or his assigns hold a tract of land lying in the woods, and from the first or other marked tree or end of the line or otherwise, run a certain course and certain number of perches to a bay, river, creek, branch, or beaver dam, which have a constant stream or certain bed of a channel, if the course directs thereto, and the number of perches fall short thereof, in such and the like cases, if adding fifty *per cent.* thereto, will reach the said bay, river, creek, branch or beaver dam, expressed in the said grant, the said line shall be extended thereto, as in other cases hereafter, being certain natural and unalterable bounds; and where the said line intersects the water of the said bay, river, creek, or beaver dam, or run of the said branch, which are or shall be expressed in such grant, such intersection shall be deemed and adjudged the certain prick or point of the said tract of land; but, if the said adding of the said fifty *per cent.* will not reach the said bay or river, &c. expressed in the said grant, and such certain number of perches give the quantity of land, which by conditions of plantations is expressed in the grant of the said land to have been due to him with his said certain number of perches, and shall not extend his bounds further than his certain number of perches to the prejudice of any latter survey, notwithstanding any gift, grant or patent of confirmation granted or made after the date of any certificate of latter survey. And, if a tract of land by a river, creek, or branch side, and from any marked tree or end of line, run a certain course and number of perches up the river, creek or branch, to the head of the said river, creek, or branch, and the record of survey do not express any marked tree, to which, as an individual prick, the line might be supposed to come, the said tract shall be concluded by the certain number of perches; but, if in this or the former case, there be a