

*For securing the Rights of several People*

Privileges Grants and Immunities whatsoever, incident appertaining or belonging to the same, altho' not in this Act largely and particularly expressed, but as fully and absolutely, as if a Patent from his Lordship had been granted for the same, any Law Statute or Usage to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

*An Act for Limitation of certain Actions for avoiding Suits at Law*

**F**ORASMUCH as nothing can be more Essential to the Peace and Tranquility of this Province, than the quieting the Estates of the Inhabitants thereof, and for the effecting of which, no better measures can be taken than a Limitation of Time for the Commencing such Actions as in the several and Respective Courts within this Province are brought from the time of the Cause of such Actions arising.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesty's by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same; That all Actions of Trespass, *Quare Clausum fregit*, all Actions of Trespass, Detinue, Sur trover, or Replevin for taking away Goods and Chattels, all Actions of Accompts, Contract, Debt, Book, and upon the case other then such Accompts as concerns the Trade of Merchandize between Merchant and Merchant, their Factors and Servants which are nor Residents within this Province, all Actions of Debt for lending or Contract without Specialty, all Actions of Debt for Arrearages of Rents, all Actions of Assault, Menaces, Battery, Wounding and Imprisonment, or any of them, shall be sued or brought by any Person or Persons within this Province at any time after the End of this present General Assembly, shall be commenced and sued within the time and limitation hereafter expressed and not after, (that is to say) the said Actions for Accompt, and the said Actions for Debt, Detinue, and Replevin for Goods and Chattels, and the said Actions for Trespass, *quare Clausum fregit*, within two Years ending the Cause of such Action and not after; and the said Action on the Case for Wounds, and Actions of Trespass, of Assault, Battery, Wounding and Imprisonment or any of them, within one Year from the time of the Cause of such Action arising and not after.

And Be It Further Enacted by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That in all Actions of the Case for Slanderous Words to be sued or prosecuted by any Person or Persons in any Courts of Record of this Province, that hath power to hold Plea of the same, after the end of this present Assembly, if the Jury upon the Tryal of the Issue in such Action, or the Jury that shall inquire of the Damages do find or assess the Damages under 500<sup>l</sup>. then the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs in such Action or Actions shall have and recover only so much Costs as the Damages given or assessed amounts unto.

And Be It Further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons intended to any the Action or Actions aforesaid, shall be at the time of any such Cause of Action accruing within the Age of One and Twenty Years from Cover *non Compto Morte*, Imprisoned, or beyond the Seas, that then such Person or Persons shall be at Liberty to bring the same Action or Actions within such time as is before limited, after their coming to, or being of full Age, Discover beyond Mectomy, at Large or returned from beyond the Seas, as other persons having no such Impediment might or should have done.

And forasmuch as divers Distresses formerly arose, whether persons absencing the Province, or wandering from County to County, until the time by the Late Act for the Reasons and purposes aforesaid limited and allowed were expired, should have any benefit thereby, and different Judgments given thereon in the several and Respective County's within this Province, for that the said Act was therein altogether silent.

Be It Therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the publication hereof, no Person or persons whatsoever absencing themselves out of this Province, or that shall remove from County to County after any Debt contracted, whereby the Creditor or Creditors may be at an uncertainty of finding out the said person or persons, or his or their Effects, shall have any benefit by the Limitations and Restrictions in this Act specified. Provided allways, That it is the true Intent and Meaning hereof, that this Act or anything herein contained