

within this Province for the time being, shall at the time of their entry of such Ship or Vessel as aforesaid take good and sufficient security in his Majesty's name for the payment of the imposition aforesaid to such use and purpose and in such manner and form as by this Act is appointed, all which duties arising by such impositions upon liquors as aforesaid, shall be collected and gathered by Naval Officers in their several and respective Districts, for which they shall have for their Salary eight pound *per Cent* and no more.

Provided always, that if any importer of Rum or Wine into this Province after the end of this Sessions of Assembly, and within three Months after his arrival & such his report made to the Naval Officer or such other Officer legally impow'ed as aforesaid to take the same as aforesaid, shall export any of the said rum or wine by him imported as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for every such importer by way of debenture or draw back Money to stay and detain three fourth parts of such imposition; always provided that the said exporter who desireth the benefit of the said debenture or draw back shall declare on his corporal Oath to be administered by the said Officer on the Holy Evangelist that the said Rum or Wine by him desirous to export is part of the said Rum or Wine by him imported & made report thereof as aforesaid, This Act to endure for three years, or to the end of the first Sessions of Assembly which shall next happen after the end of the said three years.

*An Act for speedy Justice for small Debts*

**F**ORASMUCH as this present General Assembly have taken into their serious considerations the great damage and inconveniency accruing to the good people of this Province for the recovery of small debts by a due course of Law in the several and respective County Courts thereof, it often happening that such Creditors rather choose to loose their just Rights and Credits than be put to the trouble to Sue for the same; and further, it doth also appear to be no less a grievance and burthen to the debtors of such Creditors (persons for the most part indigent and poor) who being Sued frequently pay three times more cost than their original Debts amount unto, for the Redress of both partys for the future, and the immediate and speedy recovery of just Rights and prevention of the like grievances for the time to come, it is therefore prayed that it may be enacted,

And **B E T T E N A C T E D** by the Kings most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly and the Authority of the same, that no County Court within this Province shall hold Plea or have jurisdiction for the hearing, trying or determining of any Action or Actions before them brought either by Bond, Bill, Assumption, Reckoning or Account wherein the real Debt or Damages doth not exceed the Sum of two hundred pounds of tobacco; or sixteen shillings and eight pence in money, but that in all such cases it shall and may be lawful for any one Justice of the Peace within the several and respective Countys, wherein the person debtor doth reside, to try, hear and determine the matter of controversy between them, the party and partys debtor and creditor as aforesaid, upon application to him made by any creditor or creditors of such debtor or debtors as aforesaid, and at the time of such application such Justice is also authorized and impow'ed, also will'd and requir'd to issue out his Warrant and to depute such person for to execute the same as he shall think fit to command and bring before him the person of such debtor or debtors, & also summons to issue out for such witness or witnesses as either Plaintiff or Defendant shall have occasion to make use of with power to administer an Oath or Oaths to either Plaintiff or Defendant, or to either of their Evidences as occasion shall require for the better clearing of the matter in controversy before him, and upon full hearing of the Allegations of both partys, what may or can be given upon Oath in Evidence by both their witnesses, to proceed as the nature of the case shall require, whose determination shall be final; all which such Justice of the Peace before whom such matter of controversy shall be brought, shall do the same without any fee or reward; and if such party or partys against whom Judgment shall be given, shall refuse or delay to pay such debt as shall be awarded against him or them, then it shall and may be lawful for such Justice of the Peace to award Execution against the said party or partys for the debt aforesaid, by *scire facias* or *capias ad satisfaciendum*