

The said Riddleiden having produced several forged Bills of Sale to the County Clerks to be recorded with Intent to defraud the Persons of their Lands,

And whereas the said Riddleiden has been known to personate others, and has now produced sundry pretended Deeds of Sale to several of the Clerks of the County-Courts to be recorded; and made Demands of the Possessions of sundry Persons whose Lands he pretends to have bought: And for that such Purchasing cannot be free from the Imputation of Champerty, if made by real Deeds, but that in Truth, the Deeds he pretends to hold by, are by the most discerning Persons, and of the best Credit, justly suspected to be forged: And for that it would be impracticable to detect such Forgery, if the Deeds themselves should be withdrawn from such Officers, so as to leave an authentick Record thereof, without leaving the original Deeds that the Hand-Writing of the pretended Grantors may be seen: And for that it is easy for such a Person, by calling himself by the Name of another, and executing a Deed by such Name, to one of his Companions in a strange Place, to obtain such fraudulent Deed to be witnessed by Men of good Credit, who may (as they think) safely swear before a Magistrate, that they saw the Person signing, seal and deliver that Deed (tho' they may be wholly negligent whether the Person so signing signs by his own Name, or by the Name of One he so fraudulently personates,) and by that Means obtain such Probat of false Deeds, as may make an undoubted Evidence of a Title, after the original Deeds are destroyed, which in this Case the said Vanbaesdonck Riddleiden may easily do, if he has the Deeds re-delivered him by the Clerks.

And he being fled from Justice,

And whereas there is criminal Process out against him, on One or more Incidents found against him in this Province some Years since, for Crimes of an high Nature, to which he has never answered, but is now returned unfound on such Process, and that he fled from the Justice of this Province, when bound by Recognizance to answer the same.

The several Clerks are required to secure the said Deeds in their own Hands, in Order to a legal Examination.

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the several Clerks in whole Hands any such Deeds are, and they are hereby required to detain in their Hands all such Deeds, that they may be subjected to a legal Enquiry and Examination, until the said Riddleiden shall surrender himself to Justice, to undergo a fair Trial of the Facts he stands accused of; and also give the Persons in Danger of being injured by such Deeds, an Opportunity of legally contesting with him the Validity of them; and until he shall stand to and abide the Judgment of the Courts of Judicature thereupon: And that any Clerk that shall presume to deliver any of the said Deeds to the said Riddleiden, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, shall forfeit and be removed from his Office.

On Pain of forfeiting their Office.

A Supplementary ACT to the ACT entitled,

An Act for the Marking of High-ways, and making the Heads of Rivers, Creeks, Branches and Swamps, passable for Horse and Foot.

WHEREAS it is represented to this present General Assembly, That the several Bridges that have been heretofore made over the Heads of Rivers Creeks, Branches, Swamps and other low and miry Places, are very much broken and out of Repair,

Ans 249