

BILL.

An Act to abolish Imprisonment for Debt; and for the punishment of fraudulent Debtors in this Province.

WHEREAS Imprisonment for Debt Preamble. where fraud is not imputable to the Debtor, is not only demoralizing in its tendency, but is as detrimental to the true interests of the Creditor as it is inconsistent with that forbearance and humane regard to the misfortunes of others which should always characterize the Legislation of every Christian country; And whereas it is desirable to soften the rigor of the Laws in this Province affecting the relation between Debtor and Creditor, as far as a due regard to the interests of commerce will permit: Be it therefore enacted, &c.

15 And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, no female shall be arrested or held to bail by reason of any Debt alleged to be due by her or by reason of any other

20 cause of civil action or suit whatsoever; and that no person shall be arrested or held to bail, upon any cause of action arising in any foreign country where the defendant would not have been liable to have

25 been arrested or held to bail, had such defendant continued within the jurisdiction of the Courts of such foreign country, or in any civil suit where the cause of action shall not amount to twenty pounds of law-

30 ful money of this Province; and where the cause of action shall amount to twenty pounds and upwards, it shall not be lawful for the plaintiff to proceed to arrest the body of the defendant or defendants, unless an affidavit

35 be first made by such plaintiff, his

No woman to be arrested in any civil suit.

In what cases only any male person shall be held to bail.