

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 30

in the Month of October, on the second Tuesday in the Month of January, and on the second Tuesday in the Month of April.

IV. And be it enacted, that the Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the Western District of this Province shall commence & be holden in the Town of Detroit on the second Tuesday in the Month of July, on the second Tuesday in the Month of October, on the second Tuesday in the Month of January and on the second Tuesday in the Month of April.

V. And be it further enacted that a Court of Special Sessions of the Peace shall commence and be holden, yearly and in every year, in the Town of Michilimackinac on the second Tuesday in the Month of July.

CAP. VII.

AN ACT to prevent the further introduction of Slaves, and to limit the term of Contracts for servitude within this Province.

WHEREAS it is unjust that a people who enjoy Freedom by law should encourage the introduction of Slaves, and whereas it is highly expedient to abolish Slavery in this Province, so far as the same may gradually be done without violating private property; Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the Authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled an act to repeal certain parts of an act passed in the Fourteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled an act for making more effectual provisions for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province, and by the authority of the same; that from and after the passing of this act, so much of a certain act of the Parliament of Great Britain passed in the Thirtieth Year of his present Majesty, intituled "an act for encouraging new settlers in his Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America," as may enable the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of this Province, heretofore parcel of his Majesty's Province of Quebec, to grant a Licence for importing into the same and Negroe or Negroes, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that from and after the passing of this act, it shall not be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the Government of this Province, to grant a Licence for the importation of any Negroe, or other person to be subjected to the condition of a slave, or to abounden involuntary service for life into any part of this Province; nor shall any Negroe, or other person who shall come or be brought into this Province after the passing of this act be subjected to the condition of a slave, or to such service as aforesaid within this Province; nor shall any voluntary contract or Indenture of service that may be entered into by any parties within this Province, after the passing of this act, be binding on them, or either of them, for a longer time than a term of nine years from the day of the date of such Contract.

II. Provided, always, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend to liberate any Negroe or other person subjected to such service as aforesaid, or to discharge them or any of them from the possession of the owner thereof, his or her Executors Administrators or Assigns, who shall have come or been brought into this Province in conformity to the conditions prescribed by any authority for that purpose exercised, or by any Ordinance or Law of the Province of Quebec, or by Proclamation of any of his Majesty's Governors of the said Province for the time being, or of any act of the Parliament of Great Britain, or shall have otherwise come into the possession of any person, by gift bequest or bona fide purchase before the passing of this act, whose property therein is hereby confirmed; or to vacate or