

ble, the services as numerous as possible, and the tariff of fees as high as possible : And whereas, it is especially unjust to prevent any poor man from availing himself of the aid of learned, ingenious and skillful persons not licensed, in any cause, to prosecute, appear, plead, pursue or defend, on his behalf in the courts of Judicature and there to maintain his right ; and it is preferable to open the bar to all, instead of selecting favored individuals and admitting them by special legislative enactments : And whereas advocates in the law courts are relied on by the people as their protectors against oppression, and the preservers and defenders of civil and religious freedom, and of public and private rights : Be it therefore enacted, &c. :

Any subject of H. M. 21 years of age may plead, &c. in any Court.

That any of Her Majesty's subjects, twenty-one years of age, may plead and reason in any of Her Majesty's Courts in the Province of Canada, enjoying all rights and privileges therein in as full and ample a manner as these are now enjoyed by advocates, barristers, proctors, solicitors and attorneys.

Title of Queen's Counsel abolished, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That the title of Queen's Counsel is hereby abolished ; and that no person holding the office of Attorney-General, or Solicitor-General, shall derive from such appointment or distinction, any precedence or advantage as to the time or manner of bringing forward or of conducting cases in his private practice, in the Courts of Judicature.

All enactments requiring a certain number of years standing at the bar as a qualification for office, repealed.

III. And be it enacted, That all Acts or parts of Acts which restrict the Executive Government or the people, in their power of appointment or election, by confining their choice of incumbents to lawyers of five, ten, or any other number of years' standing at the bar, are hereby repealed ; and that henceforth no such restriction shall be a bar to the appointment or election of any of Her Majesty's Subjects to any legal or judicial office, the duties of which, in the opinion of the proper appointing power, he or they may be considered, in other respects, the most fit and capable to fulfil.