

CHAP. XVI.

An Act to afford Relief to Persons holding or possessing Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments in the District of Niagara.

[Passed 22d March, 1816.]

WHEREAS many Deeds, Conveyances, Wills, Mortgages, Leases, and other Mesne Conveyances, affecting certain Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments within the District of Niagara, and the Memorials of other Deeds, Conveyances, Wills, Mortgages, Leases, and other Mesne Conveyances, affecting other Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments within the said District, and also the Books wherein such Memorials were enregistered, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the thirty-fifth year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled "an Act for the public Registering of Deeds, Conveyances, Wills and other Incumbrances which shall be made or may affect, any Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments within this Province, were during the late war with the United States of America, taken, burnt, lost or destroyed, to the great damage of His Majesty's liege subjects in this Province, and whereas it is necessary to the Peace and Quiet of His Majesty's said subjects to the maintaining them on their Estates, Rights and Possessions, and their protection against fraudulent Conveyances of such Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, That remedy be therefore provided, may it therefore please Your Majesty that it be enacted, and 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, entitled "an Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled "an Act for making more effectual provision 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 it shall and may be lawful to & for the Governor, Lieut. Governor, or Person Administering the Government of this Province, for the time being, from time to time and at any time within two years from and after the passing of this Act, to issue one or more Commission or Commissions, under the Great Seal of this Province directed to any five fit and discreet Persons, which said Commissioners or any three of them, shall have full power and authority to enquire of such Deed, Conveyance, Will, Mortgage, Lease or other Mesne Incumbrance affecting any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments within the said District, so taken, burnt, lost or destroyed as aforesaid, and to take and receive proof and evidence thereof and thereupon to proceed in manner hereinafter directed.

Example.

The Governor &c. within two years to issue Commission or Commissions to any five Persons to enquire of any Deeds, &c. affecting any Lands, &c. within the District of Niagara, & to receive proof thereof.

II. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person or persons who is or are possessed or seized of and in any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments within the said District who shall so as aforesaid have lost the Deed, Conveyance, Will, Mortgage, Lease or other Mesne Conveyance, under which, he, she, or they, shall claim, and shall thereof make oath or affirm before the said Commissioners or any three of them, which oath or affirmation they are hereby empowered to take and administer, that then and in such case if a Memorial, Record or Probate of such Deed, Conveyance, Will, Mortgage, Lease or other Mesne Con-

Persons possessed of any Lands, &c. within said District who have lost the Deed under which he &c. shall