

BILL

To prevent the pernicious habit of begging by Infants, and to provide for their livelihood.

WHEREAS from the pernicious and immoral habits contracted by Infants, found begging in this Province, who, if proper precautions were adopted might be rendered useful members of Society, it is expedient and necessary to take speedy and effectual means to prevent the recurrence of similar evils: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower 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 provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America," and to make further provision for the Government of the said "vince;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that when and as often as any Infant or Infants, under the age of sixteen years, shall be found begging in any of the Roads, Streets or public places, in any part of this Province, it shall be lawful to conduct such Infant or Infants, so found begging, before any Justice of the Peace, in the District in which such Infant or Infants shall have been found begging, which Justice of the Peace shall be, and he is hereby authorized and required to send for the parents or nearest relatives of such Infant or Infants in order to ascertain and inform himself whether they are able to maintain such Infant or Infants without begging, and if such Justice of the Peace shall be satisfied that the parents or relatives of such Infant or Infants are capable of maintaining the same, then the said Infant or Infants shall be delivered to the parents or to such relatives as may be willing to receive and maintain the same.

Infants under 16 years, found begging to be taken before a Justice of the Peace.

Who shall enquire into the ability of their Parents to maintain such Infants.

Justices empowered in certain cases to bind out such Infants.

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II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if the Justice of the Peace before whom such Infant or Infants shall be brought, shall upon enquiry be satisfied that the parents and relatives of the said Infant or Infants are unable to maintain the same, then it

in either of the Cities of Quebec or Montreal or in the Borough of Three Rivers

It for any Person or Persons

the City or Borough

upon proof of the facts made before him by a Justice of the Peace

to refuse to receive them or them or