

*ABSTRACT of the Judicature Bill, to which His Majesty
has granted the Royal Assent, as declared by His Excel-
lency the Governor's Proclamation, on the 11th Dec. 1794.*

THE general object and Scope of the Act is,

SECTION 1. I. **T**O divide the Province of Lower Canada into three Districts, viz. Québec, Montreal and Three Rivers, and also to establish an inferior Jurisdiction in the County or District of Gaspé in the Bay of Chaleurs.

SECT. 2 & 7. II. To create two principal Courts of King's Bench for the administration of Justice in all Causes, Civil and Criminal (not purely of admiralty Jurisdiction) throughout the Province, by original Jurisdiction, in Causes above £10 sterling, and without appeal for sums under £20 sterling, except in Prosecutions for Crown debts, Rents, Fees, or where future Rights, may be bound.

The Judges of these Courts to be,

For the District of Québec,——The Chief Justice of the Province, and three Puisné Justices.

For the District of Montreal,——A Chief Justice of that Court and District, and three Puisné Justices.

And on the Trial of Criminal Causes, at either of the said Courts, one of His Majesty's Chief Justices shall be one; and two or more Justices shall sit in all Civil Causes, and Criminal.

SECT. 10. III. That one or more of the Judges of the above Courts shall in their respective Districts, have cognizance of all Civil Causes under £10 sterling, arising in the said Districts (of Québec or Montreal) and shall sit by Terms, Ten days every two Months, in the respective Towns of the said Counties of Québec and Montreal, for hearing such Causes. The Judgments of those Courts to be conclusive except in *Cases of future rights and revenue causes*. That in all Causes of the last-mentioned description, the Defendant shall have a right (before pleading to the merits) to except to the Jurisdiction of such Court (or as expressed by the French Law, possess *le droit d'évocation*) and appeal to the superior Court of King's Bench of the District, and there have such cause tried in Term.

SECT. 11. IV. That for the third or intermediate Jurisdiction of Three Rivers, two or more of the Judges at either of the said Courts of King's Bench, and the Provincial Judge to be appointed at Three Rivers, shall hold a Court of King's Bench at the Town of Three Rivers, *twice* in every year for the trial of all Causes Civil and Criminal, arising within the said District, as before stated, for the other Districts. That in all Trials for *Criminal offences* in such Court one of the above Chief Justices shall be one of the Judges.

SECT. 12. V. That the Provincial Judge to be appointed at Three Rivers, shall have power to hear and try Causes arising within that District under £10 sterling; to hold the said Court every two months, at the Town of Three Rivers for the space of Ten Days each Term. The same right of evocation and restraints as above stated (3) for the inferior branch of the Courts of King's Bench.