

that they had, without any culpable negligence, allowed the opportunity of taking the benefit of its provisions to pass. In order to afford relief in such cases 14 & 15 Vic., c. 116 was passed: Its aim was to enable traders coming within the above description to avail themselves of the Insolvency Act, 8 Vic., c. 48, in the same manner as non-traders might have done. It also enacted that the Final Order granted under the last mentioned act should, as to such persons, operate as a discharge of all debts due up to the date of their several assignments, as fully and completely as a certificate under the bankruptcy act would have done. This was in addition to the protection afforded by the Final Order against all process.

The same act (32, Geo. 3, c. 1,) which introduced into Upper Canada the laws of England, as they stood on the 15th Oct., 1792, as the rule of decision in all controversies relative to property or civil rights, excepted the laws respecting the maintenance of the poor, *and respecting bankrupts*. The only authority of any English statutory provisions as to bankruptcy, or decisions founded upon that statute law, consists, therefore, in their analogy to our own law on the subject, and the assistance they thus afford in its interpretation. Direct reference has, however, been made by the Imperial Act, 24 & 25 Vic., c. 134, to bankruptcy proceedings in the Colonies. The filing of a Petition by or against a debtor, whether a trader or not, in any Court having jurisdiction for the relief of insolvent debtors, in Insolvency or Bankruptcy, in any of Her Majesty's Dominions, Colonies, or Dependencies, and the adjudication of an act of insolvency or bankruptcy on such petition, are for the purposes of that act, accounted conclusive evidence of an act of bankruptcy committed by such debtor at the time of filing such petition, (see sec. 75.)

In section 218 there is a provision that is to a great extent