

“ Britain, of the thirty-first year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the
 “ Third, Chapter thirty-first, which enacts, that all Lands which shall be hereafter
 “ granted within the said Province of Upper Canada, shall be granted in free and
 “ common Soccage, in like manner as Lands are now holden in free and common
 “ Soccage in that part of Great Britain called England ; and that in every case
 “ when Lands shall be hereafter granted within the said Province of Lower Canada,
 “ and when the grantee thereof shall desire the same to be granted
 “ in free and common Soccage the same shall be so granted; it is express-
 “ ly enacted that the said Lands so granted shall be subject never-
 “ theless to such alterations with respect to the nature and consequences of
 “ such tenure of free and common Soccage as may be established by any law
 “ or laws which may be made by His Majesty, his Heirs or Successors, by
 “ and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the
 “ Province.” Whereas also, the object of the said Act was to free the said
 Lands from all Seigniorial and Feodal Rents and Charges to which the Lands
 previously conceded had been subjected, by virtue of the Deeds of Concession,
 which were before in use in this Province, and Whereas should Proprietors of
 Lands granted in Free and Common Soccage, be deprived of the pro-
 tection of the Laws of this Province, and of the advantages resulting from the cus-
 toms received and established with regard to real property, they should be exposed to
 the loss or diminution of the rights they have acquired and up to this day have ex-
 ercised and enjoyed as attached to such Lands or real properties, or to the possession
 of such Lands so granted in Free and Common Soccage. And whereas divers In-
 habitants of this Province, and others are now seized and possessed of sundry lands
 and other immoveable property in Free and Common Soccage, situate within the
 Province of Lower-Canada, and hold the same by and in virtue of grants, bargains,
 sales, enfeoffments, alienations, gifts, exchanges, disposals, descents, devises, inhe-
 ritage, right of dower or other conveyances, differing both in manner and form
 from such rules and restrictions as are by the law of England established, in refe-
 rence to such grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, alienations, gifts, exchanges,
 disposals, descents, devises, inheritance, right of dower or other conveyances : And
 whereas it is necessary and expedient to make provision for quieting the lawful
 proprietors of such lands, and confirming to them the legal possession and enjoy-
 ment of the same, notwithstanding that such grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments,
 alienations, gifts, exchanges, disposals, descents, devises, inheritance, right of dower
 or other conveyances, do or may differ from such rules and restrictions as are by
 the law of England established in reference to the same respectively : And whereas
 it is also necessary and expedient to enact and declare in what manner such lands
 as are now holden, or shall or may hereafter be held in Free and Common Soccage,
 within the limits of this Province of Lower-Canada, shall and may hereafter be held,
 acquired, conveyed or transferred : Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most
 Excellent