

years, subject, nevertheless, to the provisions hereinafter contained.

VII. *Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That when and so often as any person to whom such hereditary right shall have descended, shall, without the permission of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, signified to the Legislative Council of the province by the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government there, have been absent from the said province for the space of four years continually, at any time between the date of his succeeding to such right, and the time of his applying for such writ of summons, if he shall have been of the age of twenty-one years or upwards at the time of his so succeeding, or at any time between the date of his attaining the said age and the time of his so applying, if he shall not have been of the said age at the time of his so succeeding; and also when and so often as any such person shall at any time, before his applying for such writ of summons, have taken any oath of allegiance or obedience to any foreign prince or power; in every such case such person shall not be entitled to receive any writ of summons to the Legislative Council by virtue of such hereditary right unless his Majesty, his heirs or successors, shall at any time think fit, by instrument under his or their sign manual, to direct that such person shall be summoned to the said council; and the governor, lieutenant-governor, or person administering the government in the said provinces respectively, is hereby authorized and required, previous to granting such writ of summons to any person so applying for the same, to interrogate such person upon oath, touching the said several particulars, before such Executive Council as shall have been appointed by his Majesty, his heirs or successors, within such province, for the affairs thereof.

VIII. *Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any member of the Legislative Councils of either of the said provinces respectively, shall leave such province, and shall reside out of the same for the space of four years continually, without the permission of his Majesty, his heirs or successors, signified to such Legislative

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