
BILL.

An Act respecting the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, and to provide for the more speedy administration of Justice in Criminal cases.

WHEREAS more frequent Gaol deliveries of persons confined for certain felonies of inferior degrees and other criminal offences, would greatly relieve such persons and be highly beneficial to His Majesty's subjects in general—Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and 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 Province;"—And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace, in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, now by Law appointed to be held in each of the Districts of Quebec, Montreal and Three-Rivers, and in the Inferior Districts of Gaspé and Saint Francis, to receive and record Indictments found before them in all cases of Misdemeanors, High Treason, Petit Treason, Murder or other Felony, committed in the District in which such Sessions shall respectively be held.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for such Courts of General Quarter-Sessions, to hear and determine, in due course of Law, all Indictments which shall be so found before them, respectively, against any person or persons for any Misdemeanor whatever, or for any Felony within the benefit of Clergy, or other Felony of Inferior degree, which, by any commission of Oyer and Terminer, or commission of Gaol delivery, under the Great Seal of this Province; such Courts of General Quarter-Sessions shall respectively, be authorised and empowered to hear and determine, whether such person or persons shall be in custody or at large,