

At the GENERAL-ASSEMBLY of the Province of *Nova-Scotia*, begun and holden at HALIFAX, on the Sixth Day of *June*, Anno Domini 1770, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, of *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and there continued by several Prorogations until the Fifth Day of *June*, Anno Domini 1771, in the Eleventh Year of His said Majesty's Reign, being the Second Session of the Fifth GENERAL-ASSEMBLY convened in the said Province.

C A P. I.

An Act to avoid the double Payment of Debts.

()* WHEREAS divers Men of Trades and Handicraftsmen
 W keeping Shop Books, do demand Debts of their
 ()* Customers upon their Shop Books long Time after
 the same hath been due, and when as they have supposed the Particulars and Certainty of the Wares delivered to be forgotten, then either they themselves or their Servants have inserted into their said Shop Books divers other Wares supposed to be delivered to the same Parties or to their Use, which in Truth never were delivered, and this of Purpose to increase by such undue Means the said Debt. And whereas divers of said Tradesmen and Handicraftsmen having received all the just Debt due upon their said Shop Books, do oftentimes leave the same Books uncrossed, or any way discharged, so as the Debtors, their Executors or Administrators are often by Suit of Law enforced to pay the same Debts again, to the Party, that trusted the said Wares, or to his Executors or Administrators, unless he or they can produce sufficient Proof by Writing or Witnesses, of the said Payment, that may countervail the Credit of the said Shop Books, which few or none can do in any long Time after the said Payment.

Preamble.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, That no Tradesman or Handicraftsmen keeping a Shop Book as is aforesaid his or their Executors or Administrators shall from the first Day of *January* 1772, be allowed, admitted or received to give his Shop Book in Evidence in any action for any Money due for Wares hereafter to be delivered, or for Work hereafter

No Tradesman, &c. from the 1st *January* 1772 allowed to give his Shop Book in evidence, when Debt above Two Years.