

XIII. And be it enacted, That whenever ^{Interpretation} throughout this Act, in describing the plain- ^{clause} tiff or defendant, or the party affected or intended to be affected by the offence, words 5 are used importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, yet they shall be understood to include several persons as well as one person, and females as well as males, unless when the nature of the provi- 10 sion or the context of the Act shall exclude such construction.