

LOWER CANADA.

ANNO SECUNDO VICTORIÆ REGINÆ,

CAP. 27.

AN ORDINANCE to provide for the more speedy ATTAINDER of PERSONS indicted for HIGH TREASON who have fled from the Province, or remain concealed therein, to escape from Justice.

WHEREAS a wicked and unnatural rebellion against Her Majesty hath been raised and carried on within this Province, since the 1st day of November, now last past; and whereas divers persons, who were concerned in such rebellion, or in measures calculated and intended to bring about, promote, and further the said rebellion, previous to the raising and carrying on the same, have fled from this Province, or remained concealed therein, in order to escape from justice; and whereas it is expedient and necessary to provide for the speedy attainder of such persons, in order to deter others from the like high crimes and offences: Be it therefore ordained and enacted, by his Excellency the Governor of the Province of Lower Canada, by and with the advice and consent of the Special Council for the affairs of the said Province, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to make temporary Provision for the Government of Lower Canada," and it is hereby ordained and enacted, by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Ordinance, in case any indictment shall be found by a grand jury, at and before any court of competent jurisdiction in this Province, against any person or persons, for high treason, misprision of high treason, or treasonable practices, and when the sheriff shall make return to any warrant, or *capias* that may issue thereupon, that such persons, or any of them, is or are not to be found in his district, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor of this Province, or the person administering the government thereof, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, immediately upon the making of such return, to issue a proclamation, to be published not less than six weeks in the Quebec Gazette, by authority, calling upon and requiring the person or persons against whom any such indictment shall have been found, to surrender himself or themselves to the custody of the sheriff of the district within which the court before whom such indictment or indictments were found was held, by a day to be within the said proclamation named, such day not to be less than three calendar months from the first publication of such proclamation in the gazette; and if such person or persons shall not, by the day in such proclamation named, surrender themselves to the custody aforesaid, and submit to justice, then, and in such case, they and every of them, after the day in such proclamation named, shall stand and be adjudged attainted of the crime expressed and set forth in such indictment or indictments, and shall suffer and forfeit as a person attainted of such crime ought to suffer and forfeit, by and according to the laws of this Province.

2. And be it further ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Justices of all and every Court of Oyer and Terminer, at which every such indictment shall be found as aforesaid, shall, upon the return of the sheriff, that the person or persons named in such indictment is or are not to be found within the district of such sheriff, certify the said indictment, and the proceedings thereon, into the Court of King's Bench for the district in which such Court of Oyer and Terminer shall be held, or shall have been holden; and it shall be the duty of every such sheriff, at the expiration of the time limited in such proclamation, to make a return to the Court of King's Bench for the district of which he is sheriff of the names of all and every such person or persons who, being named in any such proclamation as aforesaid, shall not have surrendered themselves to the custody of the said sheriff pursuant to the exigency of such proclamation; and such Court of King's Bench shall, during the term in or before which such last-mentioned return shall be made, direct judgment of attainder against all and every such person or persons to be entered on record.