

powered in all causes of Actions brought before them, the sum total whereof shall exceed Ten Pounds, and shall not exceed Twenty Pounds, to proceed in a summary way, by the witnesses, to examine the merits of such causes, and make up judgment accordingly. *Provided always,* That when, in the examination of the witnesses, the matter of fact shall appear doubtful, or either of the Parties shall desire it, the Court shall order a Jury to try the same.

Proviso.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall continue, and be in force, for one year from the publication thereof, and from thence to the end of the next Session of the General Assembly, and no longer.

Continued.

CAP. XX.

An ACT to regulate the manner of taking the Bonds of Sheriffs, Collectors of Impost and Excise, and of the Treasurer of the Province.

WHEREAS, many of the Collectors of Impost and Excise now hold their Office without having given Bonds as prescribed by Law, and some of the Sheriffs have received their Commissions without having given Security since their appointment to the Office. And whereas, also, it is necessary and highly expedient that all Bonds which shall be given, as well by Sheriffs, and Collectors of Impost and Excise, as other Public Officers, should be Registered, that in case of accident or loss of the Original Bonds, or Securities, the evidence of such Bonds or Securities may remain:

Preamble.

I. *Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly,* That all such Collectors of Impost and Excise, as shall not, within two months from and after the publication hereof, give security for the faithful performance of their Office, pursuant to the provisions of the Act, passed in the forty-sixth year of his Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act to regulate the appointment of Collectors of Impost and Excise, shall be considered as acting without authority; and it shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, to appoint fit and proper persons to be Collectors of Impost and Excise, in the place and stead of the persons so failing to give security as aforesaid.

Collectors of Impost and Excise to give security within two months.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That the person who shall have acted as a Collector of Impost and Excise, and be superseded, shall forthwith, after such new appointment, deliver over to the new Collector for the District, all Bonds, and other Securities for Money, which may be in his hands, and shall immediately make up his Accounts, and render them to the Auditor of Public Accounts, and shall pay over to the Treasurer of the Province all such sum or sums of Money as shall remain in his hands, or shall be due from him as Collector aforesaid; and in case such Collector shall neglect or fail to account as aforesaid, or pay over the money in his hands, (if any), or such balance as may be due from him as aforesaid, for the space of three months thereafter, he shall be subject to a fine of two hundred pounds for such neglect, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in his Majesty's Supreme Court in the County or District, to be applied to the use of His Majesty's Government in this Province, and no transfer of the real or Personal Estate of such delinquent Collector, shall be good and valid, until such Collector shall have complied with the provisions

Collectors superseded—Money, Bonds and Securities in their hands.