

II. *And whereas* a practice has long prevailed, of returning Writs, executing Deeds of Conveyance of Lands, and doing such other Matters and Things as relate to the Office of High Sheriff of this Island, in the name and as the Act and Deed of the Deputy or Under Sheriff by him appointed, contrary to the established Law and Practice of England: In order therefore to prevent those disputes which might otherwise arise, with respect to the validity of such Acts, to the injury of *bona fide* purchasers, and those claiming under them:

Preamble.

*Be it further enacted*, by the authority aforesaid, that all Returns of Writs heretofore made, and all Acts and Deeds heretofore done and executed, by and in the name of any Deputy or Under Sheriff of this Island, shall have the like force and effect as though the same had been made, done, and executed in the name of his Principal, any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

All Returns of Writs, and all Acts and Deeds heretofore done in name of Under Sheriff confirmed.

III. *And be it further enacted*, by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, all Returns of Writs, Execution of Deeds, and all other Matters and Things whatsoever, appertaining to the Office of High Sheriff of this Island, shall be made, done, and executed, in the name, and as the Act and Deed of such Sheriff for the time being; and that all Returns of Writs, Execution of Deeds, and all other Matters and Things relating to such Office, and which shall be made, done, and executed, by and in the name of any Person or Persons, by colour of any deputation or appointment to the Office of Under Sheriff, shall be deemed and considered null and void, to all intents and purposes; and all and every Person and Persons taking advantage thereof, may give this Act and the matter herein contained, in Evidence in any of His Majesty's Courts of Law or Equity in this Island.

All Returns of Writs, Execution of Deeds, &c. hereafter to be made in name of the High Sheriff,

and all returns of Writs, Execution of Deeds, &c. in the name of a Deputy or Under Sheriff, to be deemed void.