
BILL.

An Act to remove doubts as to the right of suing and defending Causes *in formâ pauperis* before the Courts of Law in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS doubts having arisen, whether the Courts of Law in Lower Canada, and the several Justices thereof, are empowered to allow parties to sue, and defend *in formâ pauperis*, as hath been practised heretofore in the said Courts; And whereas it is unjust to refuse access to the Courts to suitors whose pecuniary means are insufficient to enable them to pay, in the first instance, the ordinary fees and charges of the officers of the said Courts: Be it therefore declared and enacted, &c.

Preamble.

And it is hereby declared and enacted by the authority of the same, That the said Courts, and each of the Justices thereof, are and shall be empowered and authorized to permit parties to sue and defend causes *in formâ pauperis*, as hath been heretofore practised, whenever they shall be satisfied by affidavit that such parties, having a good cause of action or a good defence, are unable to establish the same in the ordinary course of law, for want of the necessary means to defray the fees and charges of the several officers of the said Courts whose services are required in the conduct of causes before such Courts.

The Courts and Justices may, in certain cases, allow parties to sue or defend *in formâ pauperis*.

II. And be it declared and enacted, That the said Courts have and shall have full power and authority, either by interlocutory or by final judgment, to dispauper parties to whom the said privilege of suing *in formâ pauperis* shall have been allowed, whenever law and justice shall require them to be so dispaupered.

Parties may be afterwards dispaupered.