

BILL.

An Act to facilitate the performance of the duties of Justices of the Peace, out of Sessions, with respect to persons charged with Indictable Offences.

WHEREAS it would conduce much to the improvement of the administration of criminal justice in Lower Canada, if the several statutes and parts of statutes relating to the duties of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace therein, with respect to persons charged with indictable offences, were consolidated, with such additions and alterations as may be deemed necessary, and that such duties should be clearly defined by positive enactment: Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

Preamble.

10 That in all cases where a charge or complaint (A) is made before any one or more of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for any District, that any person has committed, or is suspected to have committed, any treason, felony or other indictable misdemeanor or offence within
15 the limits of the jurisdiction of such Justice or Justices of the Peace, or that any person guilty or suspected to be guilty of having committed any such crime or offence elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of such Justice or Justices, is residing or being, or is suspected to reside or be within the
20 limits of the jurisdiction of such Justice or Justices, then, and in every such case, if the person so charged or complained against shall not then be in custody, it shall be lawful for such Justices of the Peace to issue his or their warrant (B) to apprehend such person, and to cause him
25 to be brought before such Justice or Justices, or any other Justice or Justices for the same District, to answer such charge or complaint, and to be further dealt with according to law: Provided always, that in all
30 cases it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices to whom such charge or complaint shall be preferred, if he or they shall so think fit, instead of issuing in the first instance his or their warrant to apprehend the person so charged or complained against, to issue his or their summons (C) directed to such person, requiring him to appear before the said Justice or Justices, at the time and
35 place to be therein mentioned, or before such other Justice or Justices of the same District as may then be there, and if, after being served with such summons in manner hereinafter mentioned, he shall fail to appear at such time and
40 place, in obedience to such summons, then, and in every such case, the said Justice or Justices, or any other Jus-

For what offence a Justice of the Peace may grant a warrant or summons to cause a person charged therewith to be brought before h.m.

In what cases the party may be summoned instead of issuing a warrant in the first instance.

If the summons be not obeyed then a warrant may be issued.