
BILL

To authorise the Sale and disposal of Stolen Goods, unclaimed and remaining in the possession of the Clerks of the Peace in this Province.

WHEREAS divers Goods and Effects found in the possession of notorious offenders and suspected persons, supposed to be stolen property, are frequently brought to the Offices of the Clerks of the Peace in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, and in the Town of Three-Rivers, and which, the legal Owners not being known, remain unclaimed and are liable to damage and often to total loss, for remedy whereof— Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great-Britain, intituled, " An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, " *An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North-America,*" and to make further provision for " the Government of the said Province,"— And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Clerks of the Peace in the several Districts of Quebec, Montreal and Three-Rivers respectively, to keep or cause to be kept a Book in which shall be regularly entered all Goods or Effects brought to their respective Offices as having been stolen, or suspected to be stolen, stating (if the same can be ascertained,) from whom they were stolen, received or taken, and the person in whose possession they were found, and the time when, with such other particulars respecting the same as may be deemed necessary towards proving the theft or ascertaining the Proprietors. And once in every year, immediately after the March Session or Term of His Majesty's Courts of King's Bench for Provincial Pleas, it shall be the duty of the said Clerks of the Peace respectively, to cause a fair Copy of all the entries of Goods or Effects in such Book, and which remain unclaimed in their several offices, to be made out and signed by them or any one of them, and laid before the Judges of the said Court; and it shall be lawful for the said Judges or any of them, by a written order addressed to the said Clerks of the Peace, to authorise them to cause such of the said Goods and Effects as have not been claimed and the Owners whereof are not known, to be sold by Public Auction.