

BILL.

An Act to repeal the Acts therein mentioned, and to improve the Law of Evidence in Upper Canada.

WHEREAS the inquiry after truth in Courts of Justice is often obstructed by incapacities created by Law, and it is desirable that full information as to the facts in issue, both in Criminal and in Civil cases, should be laid before the persons who are appointed to decide upon them, and that such persons should exercise their judgment on the credit of the witnesses adduced and on the truth of their testimony: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That no person offered as a witness shall hereafter be excluded by reason of incapacity from Crime or interest, from giving evidence, either in person or by deposition, according to the practice of the Court, on the trial of any Issue joined, or of any Matter or Question, or on any Inquiry arising in any Suit, Action or Proceeding, Civil or Criminal, in any Court, or before any Judge, Jury, Sheriff, Coroner, Magistrate, Officer or Person having by Law or by consent of parties authority to hear, receive and examine evidence, but that every person so offered, may and shall be admitted and compellable to give Evidence on Oath, or solemn affirmation in those cases wherein affirmation is by Law receivable, notwithstanding that such person may or shall have an interest in the matter in question, or in the event of the trial of any Issue, Matter, Question or Injury, or of the Suit, Action or Proceeding in which he is offered as a witness, and notwithstanding that such person offered as a witness may have been previously convicted of any crime or offence: Provided that this Act shall not render competent or authorize or permit any party to any suit or proceeding, individually named in the Record, or any Plaintiff, Lessor of the Plaintiff or Tenant of premises sought to be recovered in Ejectment, or the Landlord or other person in whose right any defendant in *replevin* may make cognizance, or any person in whose immediate or individual behalf any Action may be brought or defended either wholly or in part, or the husband or wife of such persons respectively to be called as a witness on behalf of such party, but such party may in any Civil proceeding be called and examined as a witness in any suit or action at the instance of the opposite party.

Preamble.

Persons offered as witnesses not to be excluded for certain causes.

Proviso: parties to suits not to be witnesses: unless called as such by the opposite party.