

be brought or commenced within six calendar months next after the fact committed; or in case there shall be a continuation of damages, then within six calendar months next after the doing or committing of such damages shall cease and not afterwards, and the defendant or defendants in such action or suit shall and may plead the general issue, and give this Act, and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this Act; and if it shall appear to have been so done, or if any action or suit, shall be brought after the time herein before limited for bringing the same, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become non-suit or discontinue his, her or their suit, or action, after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared, or if judgment be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall have full costs, and shall have such remedy for the same, as any defendant or defendants hath, or have for costs of suit in other cases of Law.

General issue.

The rights of His Majesty reserved.

XLII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing herein contained shall affect, or be construed to affect, in any manner or way whatsoever, the rights of His Majesty, his heirs or successors, of any person or persons, or of any bodies politic or corporate, such only excepted, as are herein-mentioned.

Public Act.

XLIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act, and as such shall be judicially noticed by all Judges, Justices of the Peace and other persons, without being specially pleaded.