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## B I L L .

An Act to provide for the appointment of Sheriffs of Counties, in Upper Canada, at periodical elections, by the Freeholders.

**W**HEREAS the Sheriff is a magistrate of great importance to the whole administration of all justice, civil and criminal, and is, in England and Wales, appointed for a period fixed by law, and not removable even by the royal authority during the continuance of his term, except for malversation in office; and there is no officer known to the British Constitution similar to that of a Sheriff in Upper Canada, who is selected by the Executive Government, and holds office during its pleasure: and whereas the patronage of the Crown in this Province is fast increasing and ought to be diminished, especially as regards the appointment of all County officers and magistrates, whose incomes are derived from local revenues; and whereas complaint has been made, in times past, that Sheriffs in Upper Canada have interfered with the freedom of elections, and the peaceful organization of public meetings of the freeholders, and were irregular accounting officers, and it is desirable to check such practices, through the application of the elective principle; and whereas the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in England, are elected yearly by the people, agreeably to ancient custom, the inhabitants of every County, in England and Wales having formerly elected their Sheriff, the Statute providing "that the Commons might choose such as would not be a burthen to them," thus preventing needy, corrupt, mercenary persons from prostituting the functions of that high office for favor or personal advantage; and whereas the existing mode of selecting Sheriffs in Upper Canada is highly dangerous to civil liberty, more especially in times of violent party excitement; Be it enacted, &c.

That the Sheriff of each of the Counties in Upper Canada shall be elected and chosen once in every three years, and as often as there is a vacancy, by such inhabitants of the County as are qualified to vote therein for members of the Legislative Assembly: a Sheriff can hold no other office, and is ineligible to be re-elected for the next three years after the close of his official term.

II. And be it enacted, That the elections of Sheriffs shall be held on the Tuesday and Wednesday succeeding the first Monday of November next, and the individuals