

BILL.

An Act to define certain rights of Seigniors and *Censitaires* in Lower Canada, and to facilitate the exercise thereof.

WHEREAS by the laws, usages and customs of Preamble.
Lower Canada, the proprietors of seigniories are bound to concede lands to the inhabitants of the Country in order that they may settle thereon and occupy the same on payment of certain rents and dues, (*a titre de redevances*;) and whereas on divers pretexts, and against the said laws, usages and customs, and in violation of the conditions under which the original grants by virtue whereof they hold the said seigniories, were made, many of the said Seigniors have refused to concede lots of land in the said seigniories, for settlement, and have retained in their hands large tracts of waste and unsettled lands, with intent to sell the same and to receive therefor large sums of money, as the price thereof, over and above the said rents and dues, thereby greatly retarding the settlement of the Country; and whereas before the Cession of the Country, it was provided in and by a decree (*arrêt*) of His Most Christian Majesty the King of France, in relation to lands in New France or Canada, granted as seigniories, and remaining uncultivated and unconceded by the Seigniors in possession thereof, dated at Marly, the sixth day of July one thousand seven hundred and eleven, that whenever any Seignior should refuse or fail to concede to the inhabitants of New France aforesaid any lots of land in the said Seigniories which the said inhabitants should ask of them in order to settle upon and occupy the same *a titre de redevances*, without the said proprietors of seigniories being entitled to require from the said inhabitants any sum of money whatsoever, it should be lawful for the said inhabitants to demand the said lands from the said Seigniors, by summons, and in case of refusal to apply to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and Intendant of the said Country called New France, who were authorised and required to concede to the said inhabitants the lands so demanded by them in the said seigniories, subject to the same rents and dues as were payable on the other lands in the said Seigniories, which said rents and dues were to be paid into the hands of the Receiver General of His Majesty's Domain in the City of Quebec, without any right on the part of the proprietors of the said seigniories to claim any rights and dues thereon of any