

CAP. VIII.

An ACT to enable the Owners of Stray Cattle more easily to recover the same. Passed the 5th of March, 1807.

WHEREAS from the want of a sufficient quantity of Land inclosed, many of the Inhabitants in different parts of the Province suffer their Horses, Neat Cattle and Sheep, to run at large; and from the very extensive range in wilderness Land, it frequently happens that they stray to a great distance from where they were turned out, whereby the owner or owners are put to great trouble and expence, and very often after the most diligent search are unable to find them. Preamble.

I. *Be it therefore enacted, by the PRESIDENT, Council and Assembly,* That from and after the passing of this Act, any person or persons whatsoever, who at any time hereafter between the first day of *November* and the first day of *May* in each and every year, shall have any strayed Horses, Neat Cattle or Sheep, upon their inclosed Land, shall within *twenty* days thereafter, deliver or cause to be delivered to the Clerk of the Town or Parish where such Horses, Neat Cattle or Sheep shall happen to be, a note in writing containing their several ages, colours and marks, natural and artificial, as near as may be, together with the place of abode of such person or persons, and that for so doing such person or persons shall have for their trouble *one shilling* per head for every such Horse or Neat Cattle, and *three pence* for every Sheep so notified: And that on receipt of such notice the said Clerk shall make full entry thereof at large in a Book to be provided by him for that purpose; for which entry so made he shall be paid by the person or persons giving such notice the sum of *one shilling* for each and every such Horse or Neat Cattle, and *three pence* for every Sheep so entered as aforesaid, which several sums, for the notice given and entry as aforesaid made, shall be paid to the possessor by the respective owner or owners of such Horses, Cattle or Sheep, together with reasonable charges for the keeping of the same. Persons having strayed Cattle in their possession to give notice in writing to the Clerk of the Parish describing the Cattle.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That if no owner or owners shall claim the said Horses, Cattle or Sheep, within the space of *six months* after notice given and entry made by the Clerk as aforesaid; then the possessor is hereby required to sell them at Public Auction to the highest bidder, first giving at least *ten* days notice by advertisement to be posted up at three or more of the most public places within the said Town or Parish where the said Horses, Neat Cattle or Sheep have been kept, of the time and place of sale, and to retain the money arising from such sale in his or their hands until the owner or owners shall appear, unto whom shall then be paid the remaining part of the money by the possessor, after deducting the aforesaid allowance and reasonable charges for keeping and sale as aforesaid. *Provided always,* that such owner or owners as do not demand the same within *six months* after such sale, shall be, and hereby are precluded and debarred for ever after from recovering of the possessor, all or any part of the money arising from such sale. And the remainder after the aforesaid deduction, shall be paid into the hands of the Overseers of the Poor of the Town or Parish where Clerk to enter notice in a Book.
No owner claiming in six months, Cattle to be sold at auction.
The money, when the owner appears, to be paid to him.
Owner not appearing in six months, precluded from recovering the money, which after deducting costs and charges, to be paid to the Overseers of the Poor.