

## CHAP. VII.

*AN ACT to prevent the further introduction of Slaves, and to limit the term of contracts for servitude within this Province.*

[Passed 9th July, 1793.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is unjust that a people who enjoy freedom by law should encourage the introduction of Slaves; *And whereas* it is highly expedient to abolish Slavery in this Province, so far as the same may gradually be done without violating private property: *Be it enacted* by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North America,' and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province," and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, so much of a certain Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, passed in the thirtieth year of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for encouraging new Settlers in His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America," as may enable the Governor or Lieutenant Governor of this Province, heretofore parcel of His Majesty's Province of Quebec, to grant a license for importing into the same any Negro or Negroes, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of this Province, to grant a license for the importation of any Negro or other person to be subjected to the condition of a Slave, or to a bounden involuntary service for life, into any part of this Province; nor shall any Negro, or other person, who shall come or be brought into this Province after the passing of this Act, be subject to the condition of a Slave, or to such service as aforesaid, within this Province, nor shall any voluntary contract of service or indentures that may be entered into by any parties within this Province, after the passing of this Act, be binding on them, or either of them, for a longer time than a term of nine years, from the day of the date of such contract.

Recital of Act 30 Geo. III. Ch. 27.

The same in part repealed.

Provisions against the further introduction of slaves.

Term of servitude by contract limited.

The owners of slaves at present within the Province, confirmed in their property therein.

II. *Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to liberate any Negro, or other person subjected to such service as aforesaid, or to discharge them, or any of them, from the possession of the owner thereof, his or her executors, administrators or assigns, who shall have come or been brought into this Province, in conformity to the conditions prescribed by any authority for that purpose exercised, or by any ordinance or law of the Province of Quebec, or by proclamation of any of His Majesty's Governors of the said Province, for