

## BILL.

### An Act for the better protection of the Lands and Property of the Indians in Lower Canada.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to make better provision Preamble.  
for preventing encroachments upon and injury to the lands appropriated to the use of the several Tribes and Bodies of Indians in Lower Canada, and for the  
5 defence of their rights and privilèges: Be it therefore enacted, &c.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, Appointment of Commissioners of Indian Lands.  
That it shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint from time to time a "Commissioner of Indian Lands for Lower  
10 Canada," in whom and in whose successors by the name aforesaid, all lands or property in Lower Canada which are or shall be set apart or appropriated to or for the use of any Tribe or Body of Indians, shall be and are hereby vested, in trust for such Tribe or Body, and who shall be  
15 held in law to be in the occupation and possession of any lands in Lower Canada actually occupied or possessed by any such Tribe or Body in common, or by any Chief or Member thereof or other party for the use or benefit of such Tribe or Body, and shall be entitled to receive and  
20 recover the rents, issues and profits of such lands and property, and shall and may, in and by the name aforesaid, but subject to the provisions hereinafter made, exercise and defend all or any of the rights lawfully appertaining to the proprietor, possessor or occupant of such  
25 land or property: Proviso. Provided always, that this section shall extend to any lands in Lower Canada now held by the Crown in trust for or for the benefit of any such Tribe or Body of Indians, but shall not extend to any lands now vested in any Corporation or Community legally establish-  
30 ed and capable in law of suing and being sued, or in any person or persons of European descent, although held in trust for or for the benefit of any such Tribe or Body.

**II.** And be it enacted, That all suits, actions or proceedings by or against the said Commissioner shall be brought  
35 and conducted by or against him by the name aforesaid only, and shall not abate or be discontinued by his death, removal from office or resignation, but shall be continued by or against his successor in office; and that such Commissioner shall have in each District in Lower Canada,  
40 an office which shall be his legal domicile, and whereat any process, notice or like matter may be legally served