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## BILL.

An Act to improve the Law of Evidence  
in Upper Canada.

**W**HEREAS the inquiry after truth in Preamble.  
Courts of Justice is often obstructed  
by incapacities created by the present law,  
and it is desirable that full information as to  
5 the facts in issue, both in criminal and in  
civil cases, should be laid before the persons  
who are appointed to decide upon them, and  
that such persons should exercise their judg-  
ment on the credit of the witnesses adduced,  
10 and on the truth of their testimony: Be it  
therefore enacted, &c.

And it is hereby enacted by the authority of  
the same, That no person offered as a wit-  
ness shall hereafter be excluded by reason of  
15 incapacity, from crime or interest, from giving  
evidence, either in person or by deposition,  
according to the practice of the Court, on the  
trial of any issue joined, or of any matter or  
question or on any inquiry arising in any  
20 suit, action or proceeding, civil or criminal, in  
any Court or before any judge, jury, sheriff,  
coroner, magistrate, officer or person having  
by law, or by consent of parties, authority to  
hear, receive and examine evidence: but  
25 that every person so offered may and shall be  
admitted to give evidence on oath, or solemn  
affirmation in those cases wherein affirmation  
is by law receivable, notwithstanding that  
such person may or shall have an interest in  
30 the matter in question, or in the event of the  
trial of any issue, matter, question or inquiry, or  
of the suit, action or proceeding in which he is  
offered as a witness, and notwithstanding that  
such person offered as a witness, may have  
35 been previously convicted of any crime or of-  
fence: Provided that this Act shall not render Proviso: par-