

C H A P. III.

An ACT to provide for the Education and Support of Orphan Children.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the education and support of orphan children, or children who may be deserted by their parents; 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, entitled, "An act to repeal certain parts of an act passed in the fourteenth year of his Majesty's reign, entitled, "An act for making more effectual provision for the government of the province of Québec in North America; and to make further provision for the government of the said province," and by the authority of the same, That when the father and mother of any infant child shall die, or shall abandon their infant child or children, it shall and may be lawful for the Town Wardens of any Township, where such child or children shall be, by, and with the approbation and consent of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to bind the said child or children as apprentices, until he, she, or they, shall have attained the age of twenty-one years in the case of males, and eighteen in the case of females; and an indenture to this effect, under their hands and seals, and counter-signed by two Justices of the Peace, shall be good and valid in law.

Town Wardens, with approbation of two justices, may bind orphan or abandoned infant children.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when the father of any infant child or children, shall abandon and leave such infant child or children with the mother, it shall and may be lawful for the mother in such case, by and with the approbation of two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to bind such child, or children, as apprentices, until he, she, or they shall have attained the age of twenty-one years in the case of males, and eighteen in the case of females; and an indenture to that effect, under her hand and seal, and counter-signed by two Justices, shall be good and valid in law.

The like power given to the mother, when the father abandons his infant children.

III. *Provided always,* and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when the relations of any orphan; or abandoned infant child, or children, are able and willing to support and bring them up; then, and in such case, it shall not be in the power of the Town Wardens to apprentice such child or children.

Exception.

IV. *Provided also,* and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no infant child, or children, having attained the age of fourteen years, shall be liable to be apprenticed as aforesaid, unless he, she, or they consent thereto.

Further exception.