

Cap. 7.
An Act Concerning Schools and Schoolmasters.

BE it enacted, by the Commander in Chief, the Council and Assembly, That no Person hereafter, shall set up or keep a Grammar School within this Province, till he shall have first been examined by the Minister of such Town wherein he proposes to keep such Grammar School, as to the Qualifications for the Instruction of Children in such Schools, and where no Minister shall be settled, such Examination shall be made by two Justices of the Peace for the County, together with a Certificate from at least five of the Inhabitants of such Town, of the morals and good Conduct of such schoolmaster which shall be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the Time being, for obtaining a Licence as by His Majesty's Royal Instruction is directed, and that no Person shall set up or keep a School, for the Instruction of Youth, in Reading, Writing, or Arithmetic, within the Township of Halifax, without such examination, Certificate and Licence, or in any other manner then is before directed, and every such Schoolmaster who shall set up or keep a School contrary to this Act, shall for each offence, Forfeit the Sum of Three Pounds. upon Conviction, before two Justices of the Peace of the County where such Person shall so Offend, to be levied, by Warrant of Distress, and applied for the use of the School of the Town where such Offence shall be committed.

Provided that no Person shall presume to enter upon the said Office of Schoolmaster, untill he shall have taken the Oaths appointed to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and Subscribed the Declaration openly in some one of his Majesty's Courts, or as shall be directed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief for the Time being, and if any Popish Recusant Papist or Person professing the Popish Religion, shall be so presumptuous as to set up any School within this Province and be detected therein, such Offender shall for every such Offence, suffer Three Months Imprisonment, without Bail or Mainprize, and shall pay a Fine to the King of Ten Pounds, and if any one shall

refuse

refuse to take the said Oaths and Subscribe the Declaration, he shall be deem'd and taken to be a Popish Recusant for the purposes so before mentioned,

And Whereas His Majesty has been pleased to order that *Four Hundred Acres* of Land in each Township, shall be granted to and for the use and Support of *Schools*, Be it enacted, that the said Quantity of Lands shall be vested in Trustees for the said purpose, and such Trustees shall be, and are hereby enabled to sue and defend for, and on behalf of such *Schools*, and to improve all such Lands as shall be most for the Advantage and Benefit thereof.

Publish'd According to Law, the 5th Day of July 1766.



An.