

At the GENERAL-ASSEMBLY of the Province of *Nova-Scotia*, begun and holden at HALIFAX, on the Sixth Day of *June*, Anno Domini 1770, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, of *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and there continued by several Prorogations until the Fifth Day of *June*, Anno Domini 1771, in the Eleventh Year of His said Majesty's Reign, being the Second Session of the Fifth GENERAL-ASSEMBLY convened in the said Province.

C A P. I.

An Act to avoid the double Payment of Debts.

()* WHEREAS divers Men of Trades and Handicraftsmen
 W keeping Shop Books, do demand Debts of their
 ()* Customers upon their Shop Books long Time after
 the same hath been due, and when as they have supposed the Particulars and Certainty of the Wares delivered to be forgotten, then either they themselves or their Servants have inserted into their said Shop Books divers other Wares supposed to be delivered to the same Parties or to their Use, which in Truth never were delivered, and this of Purpose to increase by such undue Means the said Debt. And whereas divers of said Tradesmen and Handicraftsmen having received all the just Debt due upon their said Shop Books, do oftentimes leave the same Books uncrossed, or any way discharged, so as the Debtors, their Executors or Administrators are often by Suit of Law enforced to pay the same Debts again, to the Party, that trusted the said Wares, or to his Executors or Administrators, unless he or they can produce sufficient Proof by Writing or Witnesses, of the said Payment, that may countervail the Credit of the said Shop Books, which few or none can do in any long Time after the said Payment.

Preamble.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, That no Tradesman or Handicraftsmen keeping a Shop Book as is aforesaid his or their Executors or Administrators shall from the first Day of *January* 1772, be allowed, admitted or received to give his Shop Book in Evidence in any action for any Money due for Wares hereafter to be delivered, or for Work hereafter

No Tradesman, &c. from the 1st *January* 1772 allowed to give his Shop Book in evidence, when Debt above Two Years.

Exception.

to be done, above two Years before the same Action brought, except he or they, their Executors or Administrators, shall have obtained or gotten a Bill of Debt or obligation of the Debtor for the said Debt, or shall have brought or pursued against the said Debtor, his Executors or Administrators some Action for the said Debt, Wares or Work done, two Years next after the same Wares delivered, Money due for Wares delivered or Work done.

Not to extend to any Trading or dealing between Merchant and Merchant &c.

II, **Provided always**, that this Act or any Thing therein contained, shall not extend to any Intercourse of Traffic, Merchandizing, Buying, selling, or other trading, or dealing for Wares delivered, or to be delivered, Money due or work done, or to be done, between Merchant and Merchant, Merchant and Tradesman, or between Tradesman and Tradesman, for any Thing directly falling within the Circuit or Compass of their mutual Trades and Merchandize, but that for such Things only, they and every of them shall be in Case, as if this Act had never been made, any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Act to continue 5 Years from 1st January 1772 &c.

III. This Act to continue five Years, from and after the first Day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Two, and until the End of the Session of the General Assembly then next following.

C A P. II.

An Act for further continuing an Act, made in the Eighth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intitled *An Act for granting to his Majesty an Excise on Wines, sold within or brought into this Province.*

Continued to First July 1772.

E it Enacted by the Governour Council and Assembly, That an Act made in the Eighth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intitled an Act for granting to his Majesty an Excise on Wines sold within or brought into this Province, shall be and continue from the Expiration thereof, and the same is hereby further continued in Force, until the First Day of July, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Two.