

IV. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person shall after the passing of this act, make, alter, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited, or act or assist in falsely making, altering, forging or counterfeiting, any such certificate of marriage as herein before is required to be given, or shall knowingly and wilfully insert or cause to be inserted in such register-book to be kept in each district any false entry of any matter or thing relating to any marriage, or act or assist in falsely making, altering, forging any such entry in such register; or utter or publish as true, any such false, forged, altered, or counterfeited certificate or register as aforesaid, or a copy thereof, knowing such certificate or register of marriage respectively to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited, or shall wilfully destroy or cause or procure to be destroyed any register-book of marriages or any part of such register-book, with an intent to avoid any marriage, every person so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall for such offence suffer such fine and imprisonment as to the court shall seem meet, provided such imprisonment be in the common gaol of the district, for a term not less than twelve calendar months.

Persons counterfeiting, or procuring to be counterfeited the evidence of any marriage, to suffer, on conviction, fine and imprisonment.

V. *Provided always,* That when and so soon as there shall be five parsons or ministers of the church of England, severally incumbent and doing duty, within their respective parishes or places, of residence in any one district within this province, that the authority herein before given to the justices of the peace, within such district for the purposes aforesaid, shall cease and determine, and to the end that it may become publicly known when such a number of parsons or ministers are incumbent within any district, it shall and may be lawful for the governor, lieutenant governor or person administering the government of this province, and he is hereby required to give notice thereof, by an instrument under his hand and seal to the first general quarter sessions to be holden for the said district, certifying that there are five parsons or ministers of the church of England, severally incumbent, and doing duty, within their respective parishes, or places of abode in the said district, and that therefore the provisions herein before made authorizing the justices of the peace to solemnize matrimony, have ceased and determined within the said district, which said instrument shall be publicly read before the justices in quarter sessions assembled, and kept and preserved by the clerk of the peace, among the records of the said district, and from and after the publication of such notice, it shall not be lawful for any justice of the peace within such district, to perform the marriage ceremony; and if any justice of the peace within the district where such notification shall have been made in manner aforesaid, shall after the publication thereof, knowingly and wilfully pretend to perform the marriage ceremony between any persons under or by virtue of the powers of this act, or under any pretence whatever, he shall for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds, one moiety thereof to his majesty, his heirs and successors for the public uses of the province, and the support of the government thereof, and the other moiety to any person who shall sue for the same by action of debt, plaint, bill or information, in any of his majesty's courts of record within this province, and such pretended marriage so performed, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatever.

Eventual determination & period of the powers vested in justices to solemnize marriage.

method of ascertaining such event.

penalty for solemnizing marriage after such event.

and the marriage to be void.

VI. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That it shall be no valid objection to the legality of any marriage heretofore solemnized by any parson or minister either by licence, or after due publication of banns or hereafter to be solemnized in manner aforesaid, or by any justice of the peace, duly authorized under the provisions of this act, that the same was not solemnized in a church or chapel duly consecrated, nor shall any such marriage on account thereof, be held or taken to be illegal.

No valid objection to a marriage, &c. not being celebrated in a church or chapel.

VII. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That this act shall be publicly read in the several districts of this province, at the opening of the general quarter sessions of the peace for each district, that shall be holden next after the passing thereof, and once in every year for two years following, at the quarter sessions to be holden in the month of January.

Promulgation of this act.