

pleases, but if the minister teaches, as some do, that the marriage will be null and void unless he solemnizes it, and he refuses to solemnize it unless the promise is given, it is clear that a proselytising engine is placed in the hands of persons authorized by statute to solemnize matrimony which the Legislature never intended to give them. That appears to be a real grievance which ought to be remedied, and would appear to be a matter within Provincial control—and the following enactment is suggested:—

1. No person authorized to solemnize matrimony shall exact or require directly or indirectly from either of the persons desiring to have their marriage solemnized before him, any promise or agreement whatever touching the religious education or faith of the children which may be the issue of such marriage, or the religious faith or belief of such persons or either of them, and all such promises exacted or required, or given or made contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby declared to be null and void, and of no force or effect whatever.

2. Any person contravening the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a penalty of \$. to be recoverable by any one who shall sue for the same.

3. Any person convicted of a breach of this Act shall, on conviction, cease to be qualified to solemnize matrimony in this Province.

NOTE 1.—I do not wish to be considered to be an advocate of divorce; personally I am opposed to absolute divorces and think that according to the true interpretation of Scripture marriage is indissoluble in the lifetime of the parties, and that the only divorce properly grantable is *à mensa et thoro*. I also think it is always unfortunate when the temporal law permits a violation of the Divine law, or what is generally believed to be the Divine law. At the same time there is undoubtedly a difference of opinion as