

(70)

1854.]

**BILL.**

[No. 70.]

An Act for the relief of a Religious Congregation at Montreal, denominated *The German Evangelical Church*.

WHEREAS certain persons at Montreal being subjects of Her Majesty, of German origin or descent, have by their petition to the Legislature, represented that they have constituted themselves into a Religious Congregation under the denomination of *The German Evangelical Church*, and have prayed that the Reverend George Werner their selected minister, and his successors in such ministry, may be authorized to keep in due form of law, registers of all baptisms, marriages and burials, which shall by such ministers respectively be performed; and further, that the said Congregation may be enabled to receive, take, and hold the land required for the site of a Church and for a Dwelling House, for the use of their Minister; and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said Petition; Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

It shall and may be lawful for the said Reverend George Werner, or any regularly ordained minister for the time being of the said Congregation, to have and keep registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, subject always to the penalties of law in this behalf provided, according to the laws of that part of the Province of Canada heretofore Lower Canada; and the said registers, the necessary formalities as by law already provided in Lower Canada aforesaid, in relation to registers of like nature being observed, shall to all intents and purposes have the same effect in law as if the same had been kept by any minister in Lower Canada aforesaid, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. Provided always, that no such Minister shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before a Judge of the Superior Court, sitting in the District of Montreal, which oath the said Judge is authorised and required to administer, and the same to certify in duplicate under his signature, whereof one copy shall be filed in the Office of the Prothonary of the said Court, the cost of which filing shall not exceed *two shillings and sixpence*, and the other copy shall remain in the possession of the said Minister; nor unless such Minister shall at the time of taking such oath produce to the said Judge the certificate of his ordination and of his call to become such Minister by the said Congregation, or legally attested copies of such documents respectively.

III. Provided always, That whenever the connection between any such Minister and the said Congregation shall cease, the duplicate of the register shall be the property of the said Congregation, and shall be deposited with the Trustees thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister for the use of the said Congregation.