

Certificate of marriage.

“Whereas A. B. of — and C. D. of — were desirous of inter-marrying with each other, and there being no Parson or Minister of the Church of England living within eighteen miles of them or either of them, they have applied to me for that purpose: Now these are to certify, that in pursuance of the powers granted by an Act of the Legislature of this Province, passed in the thirty-third year of His Majesty’s reign, I, A. B., one of His Majesty’s Justices of the Peace, having caused the previous notice by the statute required to be given, have this day married the said A. B. and C. D. together, and they are become legally contracted to each other in marriage.”

The same to be signed by the parties, and by two or more persons present.

And on application, to be registered by the Clerk of the Peace.

Which certificate shall be signed by the parties, and also by any two or more persons present at the said marriage, and such marriage shall be good and valid in law, to all intents and purposes whatever; and that upon application for that purpose made, the Clerk of the Peace for the said District shall and may, and he is hereby required, to register the said certificate in a book, for that purpose by him to be kept, and that it shall and may be lawful for him to demand and receive the sum of two shillings for registering the same; and that such register, or an attested copy thereof, which the said Clerk is hereby required to make and deliver to any person requesting the same, and paying for it the sum of two shillings, shall be held and taken to be sufficient evidence of such marriage in all His Majesty’s Courts of law and equity.

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

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 counterfeit 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.

Eventual determination and period of the powers vested in Justices to solemnize marriage.

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 afore-