

An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Solemnization of Matrimony in Upper Canada.

WHEREAS by the Act of the Parliament of this Province, passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "*An Act to make better provision for the appropriation of monies arising from the lands heretofore known as Clergy Reserves, by rendering them available for Municipal purposes,*" it is among other things declared that "it is desirable to remove all semblance of connection between Church and State," and it is just and expedient in accordance with such declaration to place all religious denominations on a footing of legal equality; And whereas under the laws now in force in Upper Canada privileges are claimed, with regard to the solemnization of matrimony by the Clergymen and Ministers of certain denominations, which are partial in their character and offensive to certain other religious denominations and their Clergymen and Ministers; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

Preamble.
18 V., c. 2,
cited.

I. From and after the passing of this Act the Ministers and Clergymen of every religious denomination in Upper Canada, duly ordained according to the rites and ceremonies of the Churches or Denominations to which they shall respectively belong, and resident in Upper Canada, shall have the right to solemnize the ceremony of Matrimony according to the rites, ceremonies and usages of such Churches and Denominations respectively, by virtue of such ordination.

Ministers of
any denomina-
tion may
persons must
solemnize
marriage.

II. Every Clergyman or Minister who shall celebrate Matrimony in Upper Canada from and after the time of the passing of this Act, shall, if required at the time of such marriage by either of the parties thereto, give a certificate under his hand of such marriage, specifying the names of the parties married, the time, and the names of two or more persons who witnessed such marriage, and whether such marriage was solemnized pursuant to License or publication of banns, and for every such certificate the Clergyman or Minister giving the same shall be entitled to ask, demand and receive from the party so requiring the same, the sum of *one shilling and three pence*.

Ministers
marrying any
persons must
give certifi-
cate if re-
quired.

Fee for certi-
ficate.

III. On or before the first days of January, April, July and October in each and every year, every Clergyman or Minister who shall solemnize Matrimony between any parties during such year, shall return a certified list of all marriages by him solemnized during the three months next preceeding, to the Registrar of the County in which such marriage shall have been so solemnized, specifying in such list the names of the parties so married, the dates respectively of such marriages, and whether solemnized pursuant to license or publication of banns, and if by license the names of the Agents respectively issuing the same; And every such Minister or Clergyman shall at the time of so returning such list pay or transmit there-

Certified lists
of marriages
to be returned
quarterly to
County Regis-
trars.

Fee to Regis-
trar.