

An Act to authorise the Ministers of the Church of the denomination known as "The Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada," to solemnize matrimony, and to keep Registers of marriages, baptisms and burials, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

**W**HEREAS divers members of the religious Society or denomination of Christians known as "the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada," have by their petition to the Legislature, prayed that the Ministers and Pastors thereof may be authorised to keep in due form of Law, Registers of all Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, which shall by such Ministers or Pastors respectively be performed; and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petitioners; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

Preamble.

I. It shall and may be lawful for any regularly ordained Minister or Pastor for the time being of any congregation of the said "Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada" 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 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 or Clergyman in Lower Canada now authorised to keep registers, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Ministers of the said Church to keep Registers.

II. Provided that no such Minister or Pastor shall be entitled to the benefits hereby granted, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before a judge of the Superior Court in the district in which he shall reside, which said oath any such 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 Prothonotary of the said Court, the cost of which filing shall not exceed *five shillings*, and the other copy shall remain in the possession of the said minister; nor unless such minister or pastor shall, at the time of taking such oath, produce to the judge the certificate of his ordination, and of his call to become such minister or pastor by the said congregation, or legally attested copies of such documents respectively; And provided also, that the registers which shall be so kept and the several entries therein, according to the laws of Lower Canada aforesaid, as well as authentic copies of such entries, shall, to all intents and purposes be good and available in law, as if the said registers had been kept pursuant to any Act, statute or Law of or in Lower Canada in relation to registers of births, baptisms or deaths.

Ministers to take oath of allegiance, &amp;c.

Legal effect of Registers or copies thereof.