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## Bill to afford relief to certain Religious Congregations at Montreal denominated Presbyterians.

**W**HEREAS, certain Protestants at Montreal denominating themselves Presbyterians, although not regularly of the Established Church of Scotland, nor in connection with the same, have by their petition to the Legislature, prayed that the Minister or person having the pastoral charge of the congregation to which they belong, (and of which Joseph S. Christmas is at the present time in charge,) should be duly authorized to solemnize marriages, administer baptism, and inter the dead, and to keep Registers authenticated in due form of Law for that purpose: and whereas, it is equitable that these privileges should accordingly be extended to the Minister for the time being of such Presbyterian Congregation:—Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, &c &c. &c.

II. And it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for the Minister or Clergyman, for the time being, of any and every Protestant Congregation, at Montreal, denominating themselves Presbyterians, whether independent of or connected with the Established Church of Scotland, to obtain, have and keep, subject always to the penalties as by Law in this behalf provided, Registers duly authenticated according to Law, of all such Marriages, Baptisms and Burials as may be performed or take place under the ministry of such Minister or Clergyman; and which Register the necessary legal formalities as by Law already provided, in relation to Registers of the like nature being, observed shall, to all intents and purposes, have the same effect at law as if the same had been kept by any Minister in this Province of the Established Church of England or Scotland, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be taken and deemed to be a public Act, and as such shall be judicially taken notice of by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and all others whom it shall concern, without being specially pleaded.