

for the solemnization thereof, by reason that there was no Protestant Parson or Minister, duly ordained, residing in any part of the said Province, nor any consecrated Protestant Church or Chapel within the same: *And whereas* the parties having contracted such marriages, and their issue, may therefore be subjected to various disabilities; in order to quiet the minds of such persons, and to provide for the future solemnization of marriage within this Province—*Be it enacted and declared* by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and Assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, in North America,' and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province," and by the authority of the same, That the marriage and marriages of all persons, not being under any canonical disqualification to contract matrimony, that have been publicly contracted before any Magistrate, or Commanding Officer of a Post, or Adjutant, or Surgeon of a Regiment, acting as Chaplain, or any other person in any public office or employment, before the passing of this Act, shall be confirmed, and considered to all intents and purposes as good and valid in law; and that the parties who have contracted such marriage, and the issue thereof, may become severally entitled to all the rights and benefits, and subject to all the obligations arising from marriage and consanguinity, in as full and ample a manner, as if the said marriages had respectively been solemnized according to law.

Marriages heretofore contracted before any person in public employment, declared valid,

And the issue thereof legitimate.

Method of preserving the testimony of such marriages.

II. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That in order to enable those persons who may be desirous of preserving the testimony of such marriage, and of the birth of their children, to effectuate the same, it shall and may be lawful, at any time within three years from the passing of this Act, for any Magistrate of the District where any such parties as may have contracted matrimony as aforesaid, shall reside, at the request of either of the said parties, to administer the following oath to the husband:

Oath of the husband.

(See 39 Geo. III Ch. 15)

"I, A. B, do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I did publicly intermarry with C. D. at — on the — day of —, in the year of our Lord —, and that there is now living issue of the said marriage, (as the case may be)—

"T. B. born on the — day of —.

"M. B. born on the — day of —."

And to administer the following oath to the wife:

Oath of the wife.

"I, C. D., do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I did publicly intermarry with A. B. at — on the — day of —,