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# GEORGI II. REGIS.

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An Act to regulate the Celebration of Marriages in  
*Newfoundland.* [27th June 1817.]

**W**HEREAS a Doubt has existed whether the Law of *England*, requiring Religious Ceremonies in the Celebration of Marriage to be performed by Persons in Holy Orders for the perfect Validity of the Marriage Contract, be in force in *Newfoundland*; and by reason of this Doubt, Marriages have been of late celebrated in *Newfoundland* by Persons not in Holy Orders: And whereas great Inconvenience and Irregularities may arise if these Doubts shall continue to prevail; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the First Day of *January* in the Year One thousand eight hundred and eighteen, all Marriages had in *Newfoundland* shall be celebrated by Persons in Holy Orders; and all Marriages which shall be contracted or celebrated in *Newfoundland* contrary to this Act, after the First Day of *January* in the Year One thousand eight hundred and eighteen, shall be and are hereby declared to be null and void: Provided nevertheless, that nothing contained in this Act shall extend or be construed to extend to any Marriages that may be had under Circumstances of peculiar and extreme Difficulty in procuring a Person in Holy Orders to perform the Celebration, and in which the Law might on that Account otherwise determine on the Validity of such Marriages: Provided always, that in all such Cases the Circumstances of the Case and the actual Contract of Marriage shall be certified on the Oath of the Parties before the

Marriages to be solemnized in Newfoundland by Persons in Holy Orders.