

(65)

1854.]

**BILL.**

[No. 65.]

An Act to amend the Law of Upper Canada with respect to the Solemnization and Registration of Marriages.

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to make better provision respecting the Celebration and Registration of Marriages in Upper Canada: Be it therefore enacted, &c., as follows: Preamble.

I. So much of the Act of the Legislature of Upper Canada, passed in the thirty-third year of the Reign of King George the Third, and intituled, *An Act to confirm and make valid certain Marriages heretofore contracted in the Country now comprised within the Province of Upper Canada, and to provide for the future Solemnization of Marriages within the same*, or of the Act of the said Legislature, passed in the eleventh year of the Reign of King George the Fourth, and intituled, *An Act to make valid certain Marriages heretofore contracted, and to provide for the future Solemnization of Matrimony in this Province*, or of the Act of the Legislature of this Province, passed in the Session held in the tenth and eleventh years of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, *An Act to extend the Provisions of the Marriage Act of Upper Canada to Ministers of all denominations*, as empowers any person validly to celebrate Marriage so as to give the Marriage any legal effect for civil purposes, other than the persons hereby authorized to receive the Contract of Marriage, or as requires or authorizes any Register or Record of any Marriage to be made or kept in any other manner than that hereby provided and prescribed, or as would give any legal effect for civil purposes, to any Marriage contracted in Upper Canada after the day of \_\_\_\_\_, in any way other than that hereby prescribed and provided, shall be, and so much of the said Acts is hereby repealed. Acts repealed.  
U. C. 33 Geo. 3 c.  
U. C. 11 Geo. 4 c.  
Canada,  
10 and 11 V.c.

II. From and after the time when this Act shall be in force, Marriage, as a Civil Contract, shall be valid in law, when such Contract is executed by the contracting parties in the manner and before the parties hereinafter mentioned.

III. It shall and may be lawful for any Minister, Priest, Pastor or Religious Teacher recognized by any Church or Religious Denomination, and the Mayor or any Alderman of any City or Town, a Judge of any County Court, the Warden of any County Council, and the Reeve of any Township, for the time being, under this Act, to receive from the contracting parties the Marriage Contract, which shall be executed in duplicate in the presence of the person so receiving the same, who shall make a record thereof and record the same. Who may receive the Contract of Marriage.

IV. Any parties who heretofore have contracted, or hereafter may contract Marriage according to any law of this Province, or of any other Province or Country, or whose Marriages are hereinafter confirmed by this Act, may proceed under this Act according to the form of Contract Reception of Avowal of Contracts of Marriage.