

or the religious faith or belief of such persons or either of them, and all such promises exacted or required, or given or made contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby declared to be null and void, and of no force or effect whatever.

2. Any person contravening the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a penalty of \$..... to be recoverable by any one who shall sue for the same.

3. Any person convicted of a breach of this Act shall, on conviction, cease to be qualified to solemnize matrimony in this Province."

Were it not that the subject has been brought up by the address of a president of a Bar Association, it would scarcely be worth while, one would think, to refer to the suggestion that lawyers should be public officers paid, as are judges and others, from the public treasury. In his address the president said: "The profession is too closely identified with success or failure of litigation. The object of the attorney is to obtain success, and this is often accomplished at the sacrifice of the highest purpose for which the profession exists, the aiding in the administration of justice. Justice does not necessarily mean that the lawyer should succeed in winning a lawsuit. So long as private individuals are allowed to use an officer who is a quasi-public officer as their representative, and pay him from their private means, so long will the ends of justice, to a great extent, be diverted from that source. An attorney is a quasi-public officer. His duty, so far as the public is concerned, and as an officer of the court, is to aid and assist in the administration of justice. I would suggest that the duty owed to the client be decreased proportionately, so that private interest shall have no power to trespass upon the rights of the public."

It may be doubted, however, whether the system suggested would result in all the facts of the case and the various views which it might present being brought to the attention of the court as fully as they would be by the present practice. The subject, however, is not at present one of practical importance.