

is the same minister as has already entered acts of civil status in the old register. If a new circuit register is needed just when a change of ministers takes place, the officer will require the observance of the formalities mentioned above in section 1, or the production of the certificate mentioned in section 2.

5. In case of a division of a circuit, the old register should be retained for the part of the circuit which best corresponds to the territorial limits mentioned in the authentication, and for the other part, as for a new circuit, a new register should be obtained, in harmony with the aforesaid principles.

Concerning the annual duplicate register, the law requires that the minister shall inscribe, at the close thereof, an index of all acts of civil status recorded therein during the year, and that then it be deposited in the office of the Prothonotary of the District, within the first six weeks of the new year. A new annual duplicate register may then be obtained and authenticated as above, either by one of the Judges of the Superior Court, or the Prothonotary of the District, or by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County. It is to be observed that the duplicate register may be authenticated by any of these officers, but must be deposited only with the Prothonotary. The fee due to the Prothonotary or the Clerk of the County Court, for authenticating a register, is one dollar.

Concerning authentication, no particular form is required. All that is requisite is contained in Article 1236 of the Code of Civil Procedure, which is as follows :

"All registers intended to record births, marriages, or deaths, or religious profession, must, before being used, be numbered upon the first and every subsequent leaf (not page), written in words at full length, and be sealed with the seal of the Superior Court or the seal of the Circuit Court, by affixing the same upon the two extremities of a ribbon or other such fastening passing through all the leaves of such registers and secured inside of the cover thereof; and upon the first leaf must be written an attestation under the signature of a Judge, or the Prothonotary of the Superior Court of the District, or of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County, which comprises the Roman Catholic Parish, Protestant Church, or religious congregation or society authorized to keep such registers, and for which they are to serve and to which they belong, specifying the number of leaves contained in the register, the purpose for which it is intended, and the date of such attestation. Such certificate cannot, however, be given until the formalities prescribed by special acts with regard to certain religious congregations have been fulfilled."

III.—FORMS OF ACTS OF CIVIL STATUS.

The following forms are proposed as embodying the points which are absolutely required by law :

1. ACTS OF BIRTH.

A. B., son of C. D., of the Parish of ———, in the County of ———, Farmer, and of his wife, E. F., was born on the ——— day of ———, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and ———, and (if baptized) was baptized by me on the ——— day of ———, in the year, &c.