

by dispensations, for which fees were payable by all who had the means.

The Act then proceeds to abolish all impediments except those mentioned in "God's law," and declares that no other impediments shall render any marriage impeachable within "the King's realm or any of His Grace's other lands and dominions," so that it is a statute not merely operative in England, but on the contrary, as we have already said, it is operative throughout the Empire *ex proprio vigore*. On the conquest of Canada it immediately became a part of the law of Canada and no grant of any legislative powers either to the former Province of Canada, or to the Dominion, or to the Provinces has included any power to repeal that Act. Therefore we conclude it is in force in Quebec, and all other impediments to marriage created by any part of the Christian Church are wholly nugatory and void in law: and this would of course include the pretended impediment arising from a difference in religious belief of the parties desiring to marry. That this position is beyond question seems to be clear from the Colonial Laws Validity Act (28-29 Vict. c. 63), which expressly provides s. 8, "Any colonial law which is or shall be repugnant to the provisions of any Act of Parliament extending to the colony to which such law may relate, or repugnant to any order or regulation made under authority of such Act of Parliament, or having in the colony the force or effect of such Act, shall be read subject to such Act, order or regulation, and shall to the extent of such repugnancy but not otherwise, be and remain *absolutely void and inoperative*."