

## Our Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.

Some little time ago, His Honor, Judge Brooks, of Sherbrooke, was good enough to draw the attention of the Revd. Principal Adams, of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, to the fact that there exists some irregularity in the keeping of Registers by Clergymen, Alumni of Bishop's College, in the S. Francis District, such registers containing Acts of Civil Status. This irregularity, the Judge suggested, arises from the fact that some of the Clergy do not understand the Law, and he urged, since this is an important matter affecting civil rights, that steps should be at once taken by the Professors to instruct the Candidates for Holy Orders in the legal requirements of the Province.

Principal Adams brought the matter to the notice of the Bishop, who requested the Venerable Archdeacon Roe to frame some specimen Forms, which might be printed, and the Clergy invited to keep their Registers upon these models, and thus to arrive at a uniform manner or system.

In accordance with these instructions from the Bishop, the Archdeacon prepared the following Forms, making them as simple as possible, and forwarded them to Judge Brooks for his criticism or approval, and the Judge returned them "approved" to the Archdeacon, accompanied by the following letter:—

Sherbrooke, 28th February, 1895.

My dear Archdeacon ROE,

I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th instant, enclosing Forms of entries made of Baptism, Marriages and Burial, and I find them in proper form and sufficient. I have also submitted them to the Prothonotary, who approved of them and I return them enclosed.

I would also ask that it be impressed upon the Clergy that in no case can entries be made in the annual Registers, except during the year for which they are granted and authenticated; that Clergy should be particular to return their annual Registers at the end of the year, and obtain new Registers at once to be used for the following year. I am glad this matter is receiving attention, as it is often of great importance in connection with Civil rights.

I am, yours sincerely,

G. T. BROOKS.

To the Venerable Archdeacon Roe,

The Bishop therefore now publishes these model Forms, and he does so through the medium of the *Diocesan Gazette*, in order that this necessary and valuable information may reach not only the Clergy but also the laity in every Parish in the Diocese. And the Bishop, while thanking His Honor Judge Brooks for causing attention to be given to this matter, now hereby expresses his desire that all Registers everywhere shall be kept, as far as possible, upon these models, so that the practice of the whole Diocese may henceforth be correct and uniform.

### FORM I.—BAPTISMS.

Smith. John Sutherland, son of James Baptized. Thomas Smith, of the Village of Smithville, Builder, and of Mary Jones, his wife, born the sixth of May, was baptized the second of June, A.D. eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

By me,

Arthur Gregory, B.A.,  
Incumbent.

In the presence of

James Thomas Smith, Father,  
Mary Ann Smith, Mother,  
Thomas Brown, Sponsor,  
Marion Jones, Sponsor.

### FORM II.—MARRIAGES.

Hill Merry Hill, of the Township of and Marlov, Farmer, widower, and Robinson Margaret Robinson, by her maiden name Jones, of the same place (or of some other place,) widow, were Married. married by banns the first of October, A.D. eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

By me,

Arthur Gregory, B.A.,  
Incumbent.

Henry Hill,  
Margaret Robinson,  
Contracting parties.

John Jones, Bride's Brother,  
William Robinson,  
Mary Brown,

Witnesses.

### OR FORM III.—MARRIAGES.

Smith John William Smith, of the and Village of Canaan, Vermont, U. Brown S. A., Merchant, Bachelor, [or, of Married. major age,] and Rachel Brown, daughter of James Brown, of the Township of Hereford, Farmer, Spinster, both of major age, [or, of minor age,] were married by license and with consent of parents [or guardians] this third of June (&c, as before.)