

consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. This act may be cited as « The British North America Act, 1867. »

2. The provisions of this act referring to Her Majesty the Queen extend also to the heirs and successors of Her Majesty, kings and queens of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

II.—UNION.

3. It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, to declare by proclamation that, on and after a day therein appointed, not being more than six months after the passing of this act, the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall form and be one Dominion under the name of Canada; and on and after that day those three provinces shall form and be one Dominion under that name accordingly.

4. The subsequent provisions of this act shall, unless it is otherwise expressed or implied, commence and have effect on and after the union, that is to say, on and after the day appointed for the union taking effect in the Queen's proclamation, and in the same provisions, unless it is otherwise expressed or implied, the name Canada