

and authorized forthwith after the passing of this Act, to proceed to ascertain, in the manner hereinafter mentioned, all the Births, Marriages and Burials which took place in the said Parish during the period which elapsed between the deposit of the said duplicate Registers in the office of the said Prothonotary, and the day of the date of the said fire, and thereupon to make an entry and entries thereof in new books, original and duplicate, to be numbered and paraphed in the usual manner required by law. 5

Notice by
by Commis-
sioner requir-
ing the pro-
duction of evi-
dence, &c.

III. It shall be the duty of the Gaudin
or other officiating Priest, Curé, Vicar or Missionary of the said Parish, 10
to give due notice of the purport of the present Act, and to require all
persons interested in or capable of supplying the loss of the said original
Registers, to appear before him at such time and place as he may, by
written notice, appoint to that effect, and to bring with them and
produce to such Commissioner all extracts or certificates of marriages, 15
births and burials, during the period for which the Registers have been
destroyed as aforesaid, and all family records and entries of such Births,
Marriages and Burials in their control, and to give such evidence upon
oath, as they may possess and as may be required of them, touching any
Baptism, Marriage or Burial in the said Parish during the said period, 20
and the Commissioner shall have full power to administer the necessary
oath to any person so to be examined.

Entries to be
made in new
Registers on
due proof.

IV. Upon proof on oath as aforesaid, by one or more witnesses, or
other evidence of the occurrence of any such Birth, Marriage or Burial
in the said Parish, within the said period, the Commissioner shall make 25
a duplicate entry thereof in duplicate Registers, and each duplicate entry
shall be signed by himself and by the witnesses sworn and examined by
him, and if they cannot sign, mention shall be made of that fact and of
the cause thereof; and also, if any extract from the Registers destroyed
or other written proof produced by any such witness; and any certified 30
copy of any such entry shall be *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the
facts therein stated, according to its true intent and meaning, and shall,
unless shown to be untrue, have the same force and effect to all intents
and purposes, as if the same had been made in due and regular form
agreeably to the laws of Lower Canada in that behalf; Provided that in 35
any case of a Birth, Marriage or Burial occurring within the said period
and not duly proved and entered in the said new Registers, nothing in
this Act contained shall be construed to prevent the proof thereof in any
manner by law allowed.

Their effect.

Proviso.

Wilfully false
statements by
such witnesses
to be perjury,
&c.

V. Provided always, that if any person shall knowingly and 40
wilfully make a false statement upon oath respecting any of the
matters aforesaid, and be thereof lawfully convicted, such person
shall be deemed guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury and punished ac-
cordingly; and provided also, that if any person shall wilfully and
fraudulently forge any record, entry or note or written memorandum 45
of any such Birth, Marriage and Burial, or alter, erase, obliterate, falsify
or counterfeit the same, or shall publish, offer, alter or put off the same,
knowing it to be forged, altered, erased, obliterated, falsified or counter-
feited, for the purpose of causing a false entry to be made in the said
new Registers, procure the omission of a true and lawful entry being 50
made therein, he shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof,
shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be confined in the Pro-