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1855.]

BILL.

[No. 147.]

An Act to provide for the registration of Births instead of Baptisms in certain cases.

Preamble.

WHEREAS great inconvenience has arisen to members of the denomination of christians called Baptists and others who do not use the rite of Infant Baptism, inasmuch as the law does not provide for the registration of births, but for that of Baptisms only ; And whereas the Act of Lower Canada, 3 William IV, c. 29, secures the right of en- registering births to a certain congregation of Baptists in the City of Mon- treal, but to none other ; And whereas it is expedient that all persons whose religious belief does not require the Baptism of infants, should have legal means provided for recording the birth of their children : Be it therefore enacted, &c., as follows :

I. It shall be lawful for and it shall be the duty of every Clergyman, Teacher, Minister or other person authorised to marry and perform the funeral service in any congregation or religious denomination in Upper Canada, the tenets of which do not require the baptism of infants, to keep a register of all births in his congregation, and to transmit the same to the Clerk of the Peace or other Municipal Officer in the same manner as the registries of baptisms are made and transmitted accord- ing to any law now or hereafter to be in force in Upper Canada.

Births may be registered instead of Bap- tisms in cer- tain cases in U. C.

II. All the rights and privileges which by the Act of Lower Canada, 3 Will. IV, chap. 29, intituled, *An Act to afford relief to a certain Religious Congregation in Montreal, denominated Baptists,* are secured to the Minister of the said congregation, shall extend to the Ministers of all other congregations in Lower Canada, who are empowered to solemnize marriage, and the tenets of whose congregation or denomination do not admit or require the rite of infant baptism.

Provisions of L. C., 3 W. 4 c. 29, to extend Ministers of all denomina- tions not using Infant Bap- tism.

III. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.

Public Act.