

the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, “An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty’s Reign entitled, ‘An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province,’” and by the authority of the same, That the Marriage, or Marriages of all persons, not being under any canonical disqualification to contract matrimony, that have been publicly contracted in this Province before any Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, or Commanding Officer of a Post, or before any Minister, or Clergyman, before the passing of this Act, shall be, and are hereby confirmed, and shall be considered good and valid in Law; and the parties to such Marriages, and the Issue thereof, shall be entitled to all the rights, and subject to all the obligations, resulting from Marriage and consanguinity, any Law, usage or custom, to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Former Marriages confirmed.

II. And to enable any person who may be desirous to preserve the evidence of their Marriage, and of the Birth of their Children, *be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall and may be lawful, at any time within Six years after the passing of this Act, for any Justice of the Peace, at the request of either of the parties, to administer the following Oath, or Affirmation, as the case may be, to the Husband and Wife, or either of them. “I A. B. do solemnly Swear, or Affirm, as the case may be, that I did publicly intermarry with C. D. at _____ on the _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord _____ and that there is now _____ living Issue of the said Marriage, as the case may be, T. B. born on the _____ day of _____ M. B. born on the _____ day of _____ and that such Marriage was Solemnized by M. D. of the District of _____” which form of attestation shall be subscribed by the party making the same, and certified under the Hand and Seal of the Justice administering the said Oath or Affirmation, who shall be entitled to receive therefor One Shilling; and it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Peace, upon payment of the sum of Two Shillings and six pence, to enter and record such attestation, duly certified as aforesaid, in a Register, or Book, to be by him kept for that purpose, and such Register, or an attested copy thereof, shall be considered sufficient evidence of such Marriage and of the Birth of the said Children; and the said Clerk of the Peace is hereby required to give such copy duly certified to any person demanding the same upon payment of Two Shillings. *Provided always*, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to make valid any Marriage illegally Solemnized, when the parties to such illegal Marriage, or either of them, shall have subsequently contracted Matrimony according to Law.

Method of preserving testimony of former Marriages.

Former Marriages not to be rendered valid where a subsequent Marriage has been legally contracted.