

How Registers are to be kept.

Under certain penalties.

Marriages celebrated by ministers of the Church of Scotland declared to be valid.

“ establish the form of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, to confirm and make valid in law the Register of the Protestant Congregation of *Christ-Church*, Montreal, and others which may have been informally kept, and to afford the means of remedying omissions in former Registers,” has been productive of beneficial effects, but doubts have arisen upon the construction of the following words therein, that is to say : “ And also in each of the Protestant Churches or Congregations within this Province, there shall be kept by the Rector, Curate, Vicar or other Priest or Minister doing the parochial or clerical duty thereof ; ” and it is proper and necessary that such doubts should be removed : Be it therefore enacted by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, “ An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty’s Reign, intituled, “ *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 it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority of the same, that the Registers to be kept as by the abovesaid Act is directed, may be and shall be kept by a Rector, Curate, Vicar or other Priest or Minister officiating, having authority to keep Registers in virtue of the said Act, whether in a Parish regularly constituted or other place within the same, under every obligation, penalty, matter and thing regarding the same, as is and are by the above-said Act enjoined and prescribed.

II. And whereas from the wording of the Act passed in the forty-fourth year of the Reign of George the Third, chapter eleven, intituled, “ An Act to confirm certain Marriages therein mentioned,” and of another Act passed in the first year of the Reign of His present Majesty, chapter nineteen, intituled, “ An Act to confirm certain Marriages heretofore solemnized in the Inferior District of Gaspé,” doubts might be entertained respecting the validity of Marriages within this Province since the passing of the said Acts, celebrated by Ministers or Clergymen in communion with the Church of Scotland : Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all Marriages which have heretofore been or shall hereafter be celebrated by Ministers or Clergymen of, or in communion with the Church of Scotland, have been and shall be held to be legal and valid to all intents and purposes whatsoever, any thing in the said Acts or in any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding.