

1852-3.]

BILL.

[No. 379.

An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to a body of Protestant Christians denominating themselves Adventists.

WHEREAS the President, Secretary, and members of an Ecclesiastical Conference, composed of Ministers and Laymen, known and distinguished as "*The Second Advent Conference in Canada East,*" have by their Petition represented, that there is a numerous body of Protestant Christians residing in Lower Canada, and especially in the Counties of Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead and Missisquoi, denominating themselves Adventists, who do not enjoy the privileges accorded to other religious denominations, and have by their said Petition prayed, that any regularly ordained Minister of a Church or Society of Adventists in Lower Canada, having a fixed and permanent congregation, may be authorized to keep, in due form of law, registers of all such Baptisms, Marriages and Burials as shall by such Minister be performed: And whereas it is just that such privileges under certain regulations should be extended to such Ministers, for the relief and satisfaction of their several congregations throughout Lower Canada; Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

Preamble.

That from and after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for any Preacher or Minister in connection with the conference styled and known as "*The Second Advent Conference in Canada East,*" and having under his care a regularly established congregation of the class of Protestant Christians denominating themselves Adventists, to have and keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials according to the laws of Lower Canada.

Ministers of the Adventist persuasion may keep Registrars.

H. No Minister of any such congregation of Adventists shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before a Judge of the Superior Court in the District in which he shall reside; and a certificate of the taking of such oath shall be made by the Prothonotary of the said Court in duplicate, and signed by the Judge, and one copy of such certificate shall be fyled of record in the office of the Prothonotary, and the other shall be delivered to the person taking such oath; and for such certificate and the duplicate thereof, and for fyling the same, the Prothonotary shall be entitled to *two shillings and*

Pervious conditions to be complied with by such Ministers.