

In 1850, by 13-14 Vic. c. 47, in the Legislature of United Canada, the right of keeping a register was secured in Lower Canada to ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada. This Act provided that the minister should deposit with the Prothonotary of the District, a copy of his ordination diploma, certified by oath, along with a certificate of standing from the President of the Conference.

In 1839, by 2 Vic. c. 17, the right of keeping a register was secured to ministers of the New Connexion Methodist Church. The requirements in their case were much more cumbersome than necessary: First, the oath of allegiance had to be taken by the minister before a Judge of the Queen's Bench or of a District Court. Then a certificate of the taking of such oath was given in duplicate by the Prothonotary or Clerk of the Court, one copy being filed with the Prothonotary or Clerk, the other being kept by the minister. The minister gave a bond in £100 for the faithful discharge of his duties, and produced before the Judge a certificate of his ordination, a copy of which certificate was entered in his authenticated register.

By section 5 of the Methodist Church Act, 1884 (47 Vic. cap. 50, Quebec), commonly called the Union Act, it is provided that: "Registers of Civil Status shall be kept for each church, congregation, circuit or mission of the said Methodist Church, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code, and of the Code of Civil Procedure."

It may be of interest to state the following dates at which the ministers of other religious bodies in the Province were authorized to solemnize marriage, etc. :—

The Jews .....	1829
The American Presbyterians of Montreal.....	1831
The Baptists .....	1833
The United Associated Methodists.....	1833
The Congregationalists .....	1834
The Free-Will Baptists.....	1834
The Methodist Protestants .....	1836
The Universalists .....	1836
The Unitarians of Montreal.....	1845
The Adventists .....	1853
The M. E. Church .....	1857
The Countess of Huntingdon Connexion.....	1857
The Quakers .....	1860

The mode of procedure in obtaining registers for any of these churches may be seen in the statutes passed in these several years respectively. The Church of England was authorized to keep registers since the conquest (1759), and in the Act of 1795, provision was more fully made for formalities of registration. The Church of Scotland claimed equal prerogatives with the Church of England regarding registration, and in its favor a Bill was passed in 1827 removing all doubts as to the rights of the Church of Scotland in the premises.

In 1871, by 35 Vic. c. 3, important protection was secured to the minister of any church in solemnizing marriage, by the following provision :—"No minister who has performed any marriage ceremony under the authority of a license issued under this Act, shall be subject to any action or liability for damages or otherwise, by reason of there being any legal impediment to the marriage, unless at the time when he performed

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