

## BILL.

An Act for the Regulation of Marriages, and to place upon a footing of equality the several Religious Denominations, relative to the solemnization or celebration of Matrimony.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient to amend the Law of Marriage in Canada ; Be it enacted, &c., Preamble.

That where by any law or ordinance in force before the passing of this Act, it is provided that any marriage may be solemnized, celebrated, or contracted after publication of banns, or under authority of a licence granted by the Governor, such marriage may be solemnized, celebrated, or contracted in like manner on production of the Registrar's Certificate, as hereinafter provided : And all Acts and parts of Acts specially providing for the publication of banns, and authorizing the Governor to grant marriage licences are hereby repealed ; Provided, nevertheless, that nothing in this Act contained shall be taken to interfere with the mode or manner of solemnizing or proclaiming marriages now in use by any church, religious congregation, or christian denomination, or by Quakers, Menonists, Tunkers or Jews, or with any usage or custom of registration of marriages now in use among Protestants, Roman Catholics, or other religious bodies, for ecclesiastical purposes only. But marriage, so far as its validity in law is concerned, shall be held and taken to be a civil contract, to which the consent of parties, legally capable of contracting, shall be essential.

Acts authorizing Governor to grant marriage licenses repealed.

Proviso, this Act not to interfere with religious observances with respect to marriage.

II. In every case of marriage intended to be solemnized, celebrated or contracted in Canada, after the 31st day of December next, one of the parties shall give notice under his or her hand, in the form of schedule A. to this Act annexed, or to the like effect, to the Registrar of the Town, Township, Parish, City or Incorporated Village within which the parties have dwelt for not less than two days then next preceding, or if the parties dwell in different registering districts, shall give the like notice to the Registrar of each district, and state therein the name and surname and the

Parties about to marry to give notice thereof to Registrar.