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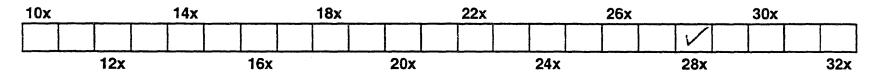
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#### No. 283.

3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

### (PRIVATE BILL.)

# BILL.

An Act to authorise the Ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada, to solemniz: matrimony, and to keep Registers of marriages, baptisms and burials, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Received and read, first time, Tuesday, 29th April, 1857.

Second reading, Wednesday, 29th April, 1857.

MR. BELLINGUAM.

TORON TO: PEINTED BY JOH LOVELL, NUE STREET,

## No. 283.]

# BILL.

### [1857.

An Act to authorise the Ministers of the Church of the denomination known as "The Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada," to solemnize matrimony, and to keep Registers of marriages, baptisms and burials, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

THEREAS divers members of the religious Society or denomination Preamble. of Christians known as "the Methodist Episcopal Church of Lower Canada," have by their petition to the Legislature, prayed that the Ministers and Pastors thereof may be authorised to keep in due form of Law, 5 Registers of all Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, which shall by such Ministers or Pastors respectively be performed; and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said p titioners; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

I. It shall and may be lawful for any regularly ordained Minister or Pas- Ministers of 10 tor for the time being of any congregation of the said "Methodist Episco- Church to pal Church of Lower Canada" to have and keep registers of baptisms, keep Regismarriages and burials, subject always to the penalties of law in this behalf ters. provided, according to the laws of Lower Canada; and the said registers, the necessary formalities as by law already provided in Lower Canada afore-15 said, in relation to registers of like nature, being observed, shall to all intents and purposes have the same effect in law as if the same had been kept by any Minister or Clergyman in Lower Canada now authorised to keep registers, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. Provided that no such Minister or Pastor shall be entitled to the Ministers to 20 benefits hereby granted, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance allegiance, &c. before a judge of the Superior Court in the district in which he shall reside, which said oath any such judge is authorised and required to administer, and the same to certify in duplicate, under his signature, whereof one copy shall be fyled in the office of the Prothonotary of the said Court, the 25 cost of which fyling shall not exceed *five shillings*, and the other copy shall remain in the possession of the said minister; nor unless such minister or pastor shall, at the time of taking such oath, produce to the judge the certificate of his ordination, and of his call to become such minister or pastor by the said congregation, or legally attested copies of such documents res-30 pectively; And provided also, that the registers which shall be so kept and Legal effect of the several entries therein, according to the laws of Lower Canada afore- Registers or

said, as well as authentic copies of such entries, shall, to all intents and copies thereof. purposes be good and available in law, as if the said registers had been kept pursuant to any Act, statute or Law of or in Lower Canada in relation 35 to registers of births, baptisms or deaths.

the said

take oath of

Custody of duplicate Registers.

III. The duplicate of the Registers to be kept by such minister or pastor, shall be the property of the congregation; and whenever the connexion between any such minister or pastor and the said congregation shall cease, such Registers shall be deposited with the trustees thereof, to be kept by the successor of such minister or pastor for the use of the said congrega- 5 tion.

LawsofLower observed.

IV. The said ministers or pastors shall, in all respects, comply with and Canada in this be governed by the Acts, statutes, and laws at present in force in Lower Canada, in the keeping of the said registers, and shall in case of disobedience to the requirements thereof, be liable to the penalties in like cases 10 thereby imposed, which penalties shall be paid, recoverable, applied and accounted for in the same manner as the penalties imposed by them are therein directed to be paid, applied and accounted for.

Public Act. V. This Act shall be a public Act, and the Interpretation Act shall apply thereto. 15