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1st Session, 8th Parliament, 27 Victoria, 1863.

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**Q Q**

**BILL.**

An Act to give relief to persons who may refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn.

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Received and read, first time, Wednesday,  
9th September, 1863.

Second reading, Thursday, 10th September,  
1863.

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**Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE.**

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**QUEBEC:**

**PRINTED FOR THE CONTRACTORS BY HUNTER  
& LEMIEUX ST. URSULE STREET.**

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## BILL.

An Act to give relief to persons who may refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious motives to be sworn.

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to grant relief to persons who may refuse Preamble.  
or be unwilling, from alleged conscientious motives, to be sworn  
in Civil or Criminal proceedings, or to take any oath of allegiance or  
5 as to the discharge of future duty: Therefore Her Majesty, by and  
with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of  
Canada, enacts as follows:

1. In any case in which an oath is required by law to be administered to any person called as a witness, in any Court of Civil or Criminal Affirmation  
may be made  
in lieu of oath  
in certain  
cases.  
10 Jurisdiction, or in which an affidavit or deposition shall be necessary to  
be made by any person in the course of any Civil or Criminal proceeding,  
or in which an oath of allegiance or as to the discharge of future  
duty shall be required to be taken by any person in this Province, if  
such person shall refuse or be unwilling from alleged conscientious  
15 motives to be sworn, it shall be lawful for the Court or Judge, or other  
presiding officer, or person qualified to take affidavits or depositions or  
to administer oaths, upon being satisfied of the sincerity of such objections,  
to permit such person instead of being sworn to make his or her  
solemn affirmation or declaration in the words following, that is to  
20 say.—I, A. B., do solemnly and truly affirm and declare that the taking  
of any oath is, according to my religious belief, unlawful; and I do also  
solemnly and truly affirm and declare [*or promise and declare*] &c: which  
solemn affirmation or declaration shall be of the same force and effect  
as if such person had taken an oath in the usual form.

2. If any person making such solemn affirmation or declaration shall Wilfully false  
affirmation  
punishable as  
perjury.  
25 wilfully, falsely and corruptly affirm or declare any matter or thing  
which, if the same had been sworn in the usual form, would have  
amounted to wilful and corrupt perjury, every such person so offending  
shall incur the same penalties, as by the laws and Statutes in force in  
30 this Province are or may be enacted or provided against persons convicted  
of wilful and corrupt perjury.