

No. 20.

3d Session, 3d Parliament, 13 Victoria, 1850.

BILL.

An Act to relieve Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada from the obligation to obtain special Licenses in order to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in Lower Canada.

**Received and Read a first time, Wednesday, 29th
May, 1850.**

Second Reading, Monday, 3rd June, 1850.

MR. EGAN.

BILL.

An Act to relieve Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada from the obligation to obtain special Licenses in order to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS it is expedient to relieve Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada from certain disabilities and inconveniences under which they now labour in Lower Canada; Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

Preamble.

5 That it shall be lawful for any regularly ordained Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, having charge of any congregation in Lower Canada, to obtain, have and keep, (subject to all penalties by the law of Lower Canada in this behalf provided) registers
 10 duly authenticated according to law, of all Marriages, Baptisms and Burials which may be performed or take place under the ministry of such Minister; and such Registers (the necessary legal formalities required by the laws of Lower Canada in relation to Registers of like
 15 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 of the Church of England or of Scotland.

Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church may keep Registers

II. Provided always, and be it enacted, That no such Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada,
 20 shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before some Judge of the Superior Court in the District where he shall reside in Lower Canada, who is hereby required and empowered to administer the same; and a certificate of the taking of
 25 such oath shall be made by the Prothonotary of the Court in duplicate and signed by the Judge; and one duplicate of such certificate shall be filed of record in the office of such Prothonotary, and the other shall be delivered to the person taking such oath; and for such certificate and
 30 duplicate thereof and for filing the same, the Prothonotary shall be entitled to *two shillings and six pence* currency and no more; nor shall any Minister be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall at the time of taking such oath as aforesaid, produce to the Judge who
 35 shall administer the same, the certificate of his ordination, or a properly attested copy thereof; and such document shall be copied into the Register to be kept by such Minister under this Act; and the copy so made therein

Conditions on which such Registers shall be obtained.

shall be certified to be correct, by the Prothonotary, before such Register shall be authenticated by him or by any Judge of the Court; nor shall such Minister be entitled to the benefit of this Act unless he shall at the time of taking the oath aforesaid, give security in the sum of one hundred pounds currency, jointly and severally with two good and sufficient sureties and to the satisfaction of the said Judge, that whenever he shall by death or otherwise cease to be the Minister of such congregation, each and every Register not previously deposited in the Prothonotary's office, in which it ought by law to be deposited, shall be so deposited within two months after he shall have ceased to be such Minister. 5 10

Duplicate Register to be the property of the Congregation. III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That whenever the connection between any such Minister and the said congregation shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of the said congregation, and shall be deposited with the *Trustees* thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister for the use of the said congregation. 15 20

Legal effect of entries in Registers. IV. And be it enacted, That the Registers which shall have been so kept, and the several entries made therein according to the laws in force in Lower Canada, as well as authentic copies of such entries, shall to all intents and purposes be good and available in law, in like manner as entries and authentic copies thereof made in any other like Register kept under the authority of the Act of the Legislature of Lower Canada, passed in the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of King George the Third, and intitled, "*An Act to establish forms of Registers of Baptisms, Murriages and Burials, and to confirm and make valid in law the Register of the Protestant Congregation of Christ Church, Montreal, and others which have been uniformly kept, and to afford the means of remedying the omissions in former Registers;*" Provided always, that all and every the regulations and requirements of the said Act with respect to the Registers therein mentioned, be also observed with respect to the Registers to be kept pursuant to this Act: And provided also, that the Ministers keeping Registers under this Act shall be governed by the said Act, and shall in case of contravention thereof be liable to the penalties in like cases provided by the said Act, to be recovered, paid, applied and accounted for in the same manner. 25 30 35 40

Act of L. C.,
33 G. 3, c. 4.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Public Act.

V. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public Act, and construed as such. 45