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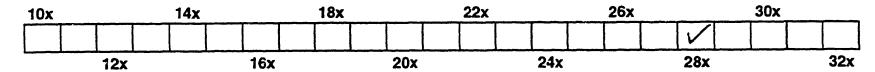
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1st Session, 4th Parliament, 16 Victoria, 1853.

BILL.

An Act to authorize Clergymen of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in Lower Canada, to keep Registers of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials.

Received and Read a first time, Wednesday, 30th March, 1853.

Second Reading, Monday, 4th April, 1853.

Mr. Brown.

1852-3.7

BILL.

[No. 327.

An Act for the relief of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, as regards the keeping of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in Lower Canada.

THEREAS the Presbyterian Church of Canada, have been Preamble. accustomed and continue to appoint certain Ministers in connection with the said Church, to labour as Missionaries and Pastors in Lower Canada; And whereas it is desirable that the Minis-5 ters who are now labouring or who may hereafter labour in the Congregations of the said Church in Lower Canada be relieved from certain disabilities and inconveniences to which they are now subject, as regards the keeping of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in Lower Canada; And whereas doubts have been entertained 10 as to the validity of the Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, kept by the said Ministers in Lower Canada, which doubts it is highly expedient to remove; Be it therefore declared and enacted, &c.,

And it is hereby declared and enacted by the authority of the Ministers of the Presbyte15 same, That it has always been, is and shall be lawful for any regularly ordained Minister of or in connection with the Presbyterian L.C. have had and shall have Church of Canada, having a congregation or congregations under the right to his care in Lower Canada, or for any Minister for the time being, keep Registers. doing clerical duty in such congregation or congregations accord-20 ing to the rules and regulations of the said Church, to have and to

keep (subject always to the penalties by law in this behalf enacted)

registers duly authenticated according to the laws of Lower Canada. of all Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials, performed or taking place under the ministry of such Minister, which Registers, the necessary 25 formalities by law already provided in relation to Registers of the like nature, being observed, have and shall have whether procured to be authenticated by the said Ministers themselves or by their predecessors in office, the same effect at law to all intents and purposes as those kept by any Minister in Lower Canada of the Church of 30 England and Scotland.

II. Provided always, and be it enacted, That such Minister Minister to doing clerical duty in the Presbyterian Church of Canada, shall deposit a certain certificate only be entitled to claim an authenticated register, when he shall have with the Pro-

thonotary of the Superior Court. deposited with the Prothonotary of the Superior Court in the District where he shall be exercising his ministry in Lower Canada, a certificate from the Moderator for the time being of the Presbytery within whose bounds such Minister may officiate, to the effect that he is a Minister in good standing, officiating or doing clerical duty in connection with the said Church, and such certificate shall be fyled of record in the office of such Prothonotary, who shall furnish to such Minister a certificate of such record, and for fyling such certificate, and for furnishing a certificate of the same, the Prothonotary shall be entitled to two shillings and sixpence currency, 10 and no more.

Duplicate Register to remain the property of the Congregation. III. Provided always, and be enacted, That whenever the connection between any such Minister and such congregation or congregations shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of the congregation or congregations, and shall be depo- 15 sited with the Clerk of the Kirk Session thereof, to be kept by the successor for the time being of such Minister for the use of such congregation or congregations.

Public Act.

IV. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public Act, and as such shall be judicially taken notice of by all Judges, Jus-20 tices of the Peace, and all others whom it shall concern, without it being specially pleaded.

Extent of Act.

V. And be it enacted, That this Act shall only apply to Lower Canada.