

C A P. LXXVI.

AN ACT to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to the Religious Classes of Persons denominating themselves Wesleyan Methodists.

14th March, 1829.—Presented for His Majesty's Assent and reserved "for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon."

1st November, 1830. Assented to by His Majesty in His Council.

18th January, 1831. The Royal Assent signified by the Proclamation of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the Protestants in this Province denominating themselves Wesleyan Methodists, in connection with a certain Society in Great Britain styled "the Conference of the people called, Methodists," have by their Petition to the Legislature prayed that their Preachers or Ministers be authorized to keep in due form of Law, Registers of all such Baptisms, Marriages and Burials as shall by such Preachers or Ministers be respectively performed, and whereas it is just that such privileges under certain rules and regulations should be extended to such Preachers or Ministers aforesaid, for the relief and satisfaction of their several Congregations throughout the Province:—Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of "an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "*An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America,*" and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall be lawful for the said Wesleyan Preachers or Ministers in connection with the Society in Great Britain, styled and known as "the Conference of the people called, Methodists" being previously licenced thereto by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or person administering the Government for the time being, to have and keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, according to the Laws of this Province.

Wesleyan Preachers having a Licence from the Governor, may keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.

Before exercising the privileges granted.

II. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that before exercising any of the privileges by this Act conferred the Preachers or Ministers

ed Preachers and Ministers to represent by Petition to the Governor, that they are Wesleyan Preachers.

Ministers wishing to enter upon the exercise thereof in this Province, shall by a Petition to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or person administering the Government for the time being, represent that they are Wesleyan Preachers or Ministers in connection with and duly recognized as being so by the aforesaid Conference of the People called Methodists, accompanying the same with their Certificate of Ordination, and a Certificate of two other Preachers or Ministers of the same denomination residing in the Province and performing their duties therein, that the person or persons applying is or are in fact a Preacher or Minister or Preachers or Ministers as aforesaid in connection with and recognized as being so by the said Conference and as such admissible to the exercise of the privileges granted by this Act.

Governor empowered to grant the prayer of the Petition if he thinks fit, and to grant them a register.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or person administering for the time being, to grant the Prayer of the said Petition if he shall see fit to issue his licence under his hand and seal to the said Petitioner to have and keep Registers for the purposes aforesaid any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Registers kept where to be deposited.

IV. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that such Registers after the removal of such Preacher or Minister from the City, Town, Township or place in which they may respectively have officiated and have kept such Registers shall be deposited with their respective successors in office, or in case there shall be no such successors with the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench or Provincial Court for the District or Inferior District wherein such Preacher or Minister may have usually resided and officiated.

Preacher not obliged to present a Petition more than once during his residence and Ministry for a Register, but on removal to have a new Register.

V. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall not be incumbent on any such Preacher or Minister to present a Petition as herein above required more than once during his residence or Ministry in this Province, and that on removal from one City, Town, Township or place to another City, Town Township or place in this Province, such Preacher or Minister shall be entitled to have and obtain a new Register for the place to which he shall have removed, if none shall have been previously obtained or kept at such place by some Wesleyan Preacher or Minister.

Registers, so kept available in law.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the Registers which shall have been so kept with the several entries made therein according to the Laws in force in this Province as well as authentic copies of the entries therein made, shall to all intents and purposes be good and available at Law, as if the said Register had been kept pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of this Province.