

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the fourth session of the fourteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: John Carleton Fisher & William Kemble, Law Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1834.

4 William IV – Chapter 21

An Act for the relief of the Religious Society called the “Universalist Society,” in the Township of Ascot and the neighbourhood thereof. (18th March, 1834.)

Whereas divers Inhabitants of the Township of Ascot and other Townships thereunto adjacent being of that class of Christians denominated Universalists have by their Petition to the Legislature prayed that their Minister, the Reverend Joseph Ward, and his Successors, in the pastoral office may be authorized to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, and it is equitable that the prayer of their Petition be granted:—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 it shall be lawful for the said Reverend Joseph Ward, and his Successor or Successors, being regularly ordained and appointed Ministers of the Universalist Society, in the said Township of Ascot, and the neighbouring Townships, to have and keep under the penalties by Law provided in that behalf, Registers duly authenticated of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, which shall take place under his or their Ministry, and the Registers so kept, (the requisite legal formalities with regard to Registers, of the like nature being duly observed,) shall to all intents and purposes have the same effect in Law, as if they had been kept by any Priest or Minister now authorized by Law to kept such Register in this Province, any Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that no Minister of any such “Universalist Society,” shall be intituled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before the Judge of the Provincial Court of the District of Saint Francis, (which oath such Judge is hereby authorized and required to administer;) and a certificate of the taking such oath shall be made by the Prothonotary of the said Court in duplicate, and signed by the Judge, and one copy 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 the 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 such 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 shall administer the same, the certificate of his ordination, and of the invitation or call to become their Minister by him received from the said Society, and of his installation as such Minister: or legally attested copies of such

Documents respectively; and all such Documents shall be copied into each Register to be kept by such Minister under the authority of this Act, and the copies so made therein, shall be certified to be correct by the Prothonotary before such Register shall be authenticated by him or by the Judge of the said Court: nor shall any 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 securities before and to the satisfaction of the Judge, who shall administer such oath, that whenever he shall by death or otherwise cease to be the Minister of such Society, 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.

III. Provided always and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whenever the connection between any such Minister, and the said Society shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of the said Society, and shall be deposited with the Trustees thereof to be kept by the Successors of such Minister, for the use of the said Society.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Registers which shall have been so kept, and 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 in Law as if the said Register had been kept pursuant to the Act passed by the Legislature of this Province, in the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of His Majesty George the Third, intituled, "An Act to establish the form of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, to confirm and make valid in Law the Registers of the Protestant Congregation of Christ Church Montreal, and others which may have been informally kept, and to afford the means of remedying omissions in former Registers." Provided always, that all and every the Regulations and requirements of the said Act with respect to Registers therein mentioned, be also observed with respect to the Registers to be kept pursuant to this Act.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Ministers keeping Registers pursuant to this Act, shall in all respects comply with and be governed by the above recited Act, and shall in case of disobedience to the said Act be liable to the penalties in like cases provided by the said Act, which penalties shall also be recoverable, paid, applied and accounted for in the same manner as the penalties by the said Act imposed, are hereby directed to be paid, applied and accounted for.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing herein contained shall affect or be construed to affect in any way whatsoever the rights of His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, or of any body politic or corporate, or of any person or persons such only excepted as are herein mentioned.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be a public Act, and as such shall be judicially taken notice of by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and all others whom it shall concern without being specially pleaded.