

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the fifteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: John Carleton Fisher & William Kemble, Law Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1836.

6 William IV – Chapter 50

An Act to extend certain privileges to the Class of persons denominating themselves, Methodist Protestants. (21st March, 1836.)

Whereas the Protestants in this Province, denominating themselves Methodist Protestants in connection with a Conference established in the Township of Dunham in this Province, called the Methodist Protestant Conference, 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 Ministers or Preachers, respectively be performed; and whereas it is just that such privileges, under certain Rules and Regulations; should be extended to such Preachers and Ministers aforesaid, for the relief and satisfaction of their several Congregations throughout this Province:—Be it therefore enacted by 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 Methodist Protestant Preachers or Ministers, in connection with the Conference aforesaid, styled and known as the Conference of the People called Methodist Protestants, having a regularly established Circuit with a Congregation or Congregations of Methodist Protestants under their care, to have and keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, according to the Laws of this Province.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no Minister in connection with the Conference aforesaid, styled and known as the Conference of the People called Methodist Protestants, shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of Allegiance before a Judge of the Court of King's Bench, or of the Provincial Court for the District or Inferior District in which he shall reside (which oath such Judge is hereby authorized and required to administer) and a Certificate of the taking of 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 fyled of record in the Office of the said Prothonotary, and the other shall be delivered to the person taking such oath, 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 shall administer the same, the Certificate of his Ordination as such Minister, or a legally attested copy of such document; and such

document shall be copied into each Register to be kept by such Minister under the authority of this Act, and the copy so made therein by such Minister shall be certified to be correct by the Prothonotary (for which Certificate the said Prothonotary shall receive the sum of two shillings and six-pence, currency, and no more) before such Register shall be authenticated by him or by any Judge of the 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 sureties 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 Congregation, or Congregations, 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 such Congregation, or Congregations shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of such Congregation or Congregations, and shall be deposited with the Clerk thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister, for the use of said Congregation or Congregations.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that such Registers after the removal of such Preachers or Ministers 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 of the District, or Inferior District wherein such Preacher or Minister may have usually resided and officiated.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that on his 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 Methodist Protestant Preacher or Minister.

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 Registers had been kept pursuant to an Act of the Legislature of this Province, of the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of His Majesty George the Third, intituled, "An Act to establish the forms of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, to confirm and make valid in Law, the Register 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

the Registers therein-mentioned, be also observed with respect to the Registers to be kept pursuant to this Act.

VII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Preachers or 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 manner, and as the penalties by the said Act imposed, are thereby directed to be paid, applied and accounted for.

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