

*Laws of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada*, passed in the year 1857. Toronto: Stewart Derbshire & George Desbarats, 1857.

20 Victoria – Chapter 214

**An Act to authorize the Ministers of the Church of the denomination known as “The Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada,” to solemnize Matrimony, and to keep Registers of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials in Lower Canada, and for other purposes therein mentioned. Assented to 10th June, 1857.**

Whereas divers members of the religious Society or denomination of Christians known as the “Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada,” have by their petition to the Legislature, prayed that the Ministers and Pastors thereof may be authorized to keep in due form of Law, Registers of all Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, which shall by such Ministers or Pastors respectively be performed in Lower Canada, and it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petitioners: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:

- I. It shall and may be lawful for any regularly ordained Minister or Pastor for the time being of any Circuit or Mission of the said “Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada” to have and keep registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, subject always to the penalties of law in this behalf provided, according to the laws of Lower Canada; and the said registers, the necessary formalities as by law already provided in Lower Canada aforesaid, in relation to registers of like 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 or Clergyman in Lower Canada now authorized to keep registers; any law to the contrary notwithstanding.
- II. Provided that no such Minister or Pastor shall be entitled to the benefits hereby granted, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the District in which he shall reside, which said oath any such Justice is authorized and required to administer, and the same to certify in duplicate, under his signature, whereof one copy shall be filed in the office of the Registrar of the District, the cost of which filing shall not exceed five shillings, and the other copy shall remain in the possession of the said Minister; nor unless such Minister or Pastor shall, at the time of taking such oath, produce to the Justice the certificate of his ordination, or legally attested copies of such documents respectively; And provided also, that the registers which shall be so kept and the several entries therein, according to the laws of Lower Canada aforesaid, as well as authentic copies of such entries, shall, to all intents and purposes, be good and available in law, as if the said registers had been kept pursuant to any Act, Statute or Law of or in Lower Canada in relation to registers of baptisms, marriages or deaths.
- III. The duplicate of the Registers to be kept by such Minister or Pastor, shall be the property of the Circuit or Mission; and whenever the connexion between any such Minister or Pastor and the said Circuit or Mission shall cease, such Registers shall be deposited with the Recording Steward thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister or Pastor for the use of the said Circuit or Mission.

IV. The said Ministers or Pastors shall, in all respects, comply with and be governed by the Acts, Statutes, and Laws at present in force in Lower Canada, in the keeping of the said registers, and shall in case of disobedience to the requirements thereof, be liable to the penalties in like cases thereby imposed, which penalties shall be paid, recoverable, applied and accounted for in the same manner as the penalties imposed by them are therein directed to be paid, applied and accounted for.

V. This Act shall be a Public Act, and the Interpretation Act shall apply thereto.