

## C A P . C C X L V .

An Act to confirm certain marriages solemnized by the late Revd. Alexander McWattie, and to provide for the proof thereof, and of other acts performed by him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

[Assented to 19th May, 1855.]

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS the late Reverend Alexander McWattie did for many years officiate as a Presbyterian Minister of the Church of Scotland at South Georgetown, in the Seignior of Beauharnois, in the District of Montreal, and did, while so officiating, solemnize marriage, administer baptism and bury the dead, and keep Registers of the marriages, baptisms and burials by him performed, which were many; And whereas since the decease of the said Reverend Alexander McWattie doubts have been raised as to his having been regularly ordained a Minister of the Church of Scotland or entitled to keep such Registers as aforesaid; And whereas the Registers so kept by the said Alexander McWattie are informal and irregular in many respects, and a large number of the inhabitants of the said Seignior and others who have been married or baptised by him, or whose relatives were buried by him, and who are deeply interested in the validity of the Registers so kept by him, have prayed that his official acts as such Minister, and the Registers thereof so kept by him, may be confirmed, and it is just and right that their prayer be granted: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

Marriages solemnized and Registers kept by the Rev. A. McWattie declared valid.

Provisions for remedying omissions, &c. in Registers extended to Mr. McWattie's Registers, 35 G. 3, c. 4.

I. That all marriages between persons capable of contracting marriage together by law, solemnized by the said Reverend Alexander McWattie, shall be and shall be held to have been at the time of the solemnization thereof, legal and valid; and all the provisions of the Act of the Legislature of Lower Canada, passed in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of King George the Third, and 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 have been informally kept, and to afford the means of remedying omissions in former Registers*, for remedying informalities or omissions in Registers kept before the passing of that Act, shall be and are hereby extended to the Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials kept

by

by the said Reverend Alexander McWattie, as aforesaid, the period of five years limited in the thirteenth section of the said Act, being reckoned from the passing of this Act, for the purposes thereof: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall affect or destroy any rights that may have been claimed by any legal proceeding taken or commenced before the passing of this Act.

Proviso: not to affect pending proceedings.

H. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.

Public Act.

## C A P. C C X L V I .

An Act to authorize Jacob Hespeler, his heirs or assigns, to erect a Dam or Breakwater on the Grand River at or near the Village of Preston, in the County of Waterloo.

[Assented to 19th May, 1855.]

**W**HEREAS the erection of a Dam or Breakwater, with the necessary buildings and appurtenances, for milling, manufacturing, mechanical or industrial purposes, on the Grand River, at or near the Village of Preston, in the County of Waterloo, would be of great public benefit to the surrounding country; And whereas Jacob Hespeler, of the said Village of Preston, Esquire, is disposed to undertake the same, if properly authorized so to do: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

Preamble.

I. It shall and may be lawful to and for the said Jacob Hespeler, his heirs or assigns, to erect a Dam or Breakwater on the said Grand River, extending, if desired, from the lands now possessed or from any lands hereafter to be possessed by him or them, at or near the said Village of Preston, to any point on the opposite bank of the said Grand River, but not beyond the edge of the river, nor upon or beyond the boundary line of the lands of the proprietor or proprietors on such opposite bank: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful to or for the said Jacob Hespeler, his heirs or assigns, by the means of such Dam or Breakwater, to flood any land lying above the same, without the consent of the owner or owners thereof first had and obtained.

Construction of a Dam or Breakwater authorized.

Proviso.

II. The said Jacob Hespeler, his heirs or assigns, shall from time to time and at all times, be held to possess and be beneficially

Hespeler and his assigns to