

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1851. Quebec: Stewart Derbishire and George Desbarts, 1852.

16 Victoria – Chapter 217

An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to a body of Protestant Christians denominating themselves Adventists. Assented to 14th June, 1853.

Whereas the President, Secretary and Members of an Ecclesiastical Conference, composed of Ministers and Laymen, known and distinguished as *The Second Advent Conference in Canada East*, have by their Petition represented, that there is a numerous body of Protestant Christians residing in Lower Canada, and especially in the Counties of Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead and Missisquoi, denominating themselves Adventists, who do not enjoy the privileges accorded to other religious denominations, and have by their said Petition prayed, that any regularly ordained Minister of a Church or Society of Adventists in Lower Canada, having a fixed and permanent congregation, may be authorized to keep, in due form of law, Registers of all such Baptisms, Marriages and Burials as shall by such Minister be performed; And whereas it is just that such privileges under certain regulations should be extended to such Ministers, for the relief and satisfaction of their several congregations throughout Lower Canada: 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, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall and may be lawful for any Preacher or Minister in connection with the conference styled and known as *The Second Advent Conference in Canada East*, and having under his care a regularly established congregation of the class of Protestant Christians denominating themselves Adventists, to have and keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials according to the laws of Lower Canada.

II. No Minister of any such congregation of Adventists shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall have taken the oath of allegiance before a Judge of the Superior Court in the District in which he shall reside; 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 filed of record in the office of the 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 his congregation, 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 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, 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. Whenever the connection between any such Minister and such congregation shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of such congregation, and shall be deposited with the Clerk thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister, for the use of the said congregation.

IV. 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 successors, with the Prothonotary of the Superior Court in the district in which the Preacher or Minister keeping the same may have actually officiated.

V. 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 Preacher or Minister in connection with the said Conference.

VI. The Registers which shall have been so kept, and the several entries made therein according to the laws in force in Lower Canada, 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 Registers had been kept pursuant to the Act passed by the Legislature of the late Province of Lower Canada, in the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, intituled, *An Act to establish the forms of Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, to confirm and make valid in laic 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*, or of an Ordinance of the Legislature of the said late Province, passed in the second year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Ordinance to facilitate the manner in which Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, shall in future be numbered and authenticated, in the Province of Lower Canada*.

VII. Ministers keeping Registers pursuant to this Act, shall in all respects comply with and be governed by the above recited Act and Ordinance, and shall in case of disobedience to the said Act or the said Ordinance 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 thereby directed to be paid, applied and accounted for.

VIII. Nothing herein contained shall affect or be construed to affect in any manner or way whatever, the rights of Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, or of any body politic or corporate, or of any person or persons, except such only as are herein mentioned.

IX. This Act shall be held to be a Public Act.