

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SEPTIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. LI.

An Act to regulate the Celebration of Marriages in *Newfoundland*. [27th *June* 1817.]

WHEREAS a Doubt has exiſted whether the Law of *England*, requiring Religious Ceremonies in the Celebration of Marriage to be performed by Perſons in Holy Orders for the perfect Validity of the Marriage Contract, be in force in *Newfoundland*; and by reaſon of this Doubt, Marriages have been of late celebrated in *Newfoundland* by Perſons not in Holy Orders: And whereas great Inconvenience and Irregularities may ariſe if theſe Doubts ſhall continue to prevail; be it therefore enacted by the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That from and after the Firſt Day of *January* in the Year One thouſand eight hundred and eighteen, all Marriages had in *Newfoundland* ſhall be celebrated by Perſons in Holy Orders; and all Marriages which ſhall be contracted or celebrated in *Newfoundland* contrary to this Act, after the Firſt Day of *January* in the Year One thouſand eight hundred and eighteen, ſhall be and are hereby declared to be null and void: Provided nevertheleſs, that nothing contained in this Act ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to any Marriages that may be had under Circumſtances of peculiar and extreme Difficulty in procuring a Perſon in Holy Orders to perform the Celebration, and in which the Law might on that Account otherwiſe determine on the Validity of ſuch Marriages: Provided always, that in all ſuch Caſes the Circumſtances of the Caſe and the actual Contract of Marriage ſhall be certified on the Oath of the Parties before the Magiſtrate

Marriages to be ſolemnized in Newfoundland by Perſons in Holy Orders.

Magiſtrate neareſt to the uſual Reſidence of the Parties, or either of them, or before ſome other Perſon duly authorized by the Governor, or Officer adminiſtering the Government at *Newfoundland*, to adminiſter ſuch Oath.

A&t not to affe&t Marriages already contra&ted, or Quakers or Jews.

II. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to Marriages already had, or that ſhall be had previous to the Firſt Day of *January* in the Year One thouſand eight hundred and eighteen: Provided alſo, that nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend to any Marriages amongſt the People called *Quakers*, or amongſt the Perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh Religion, where both the Parties to any ſuch Marriage ſhall be of the People called *Quakers*, or Perſons profeſſing the Jewiſh Religion reſpectively.

A&t may be altered this Seſſion.

III. And be it further enacted, That this Act may be altered, amended, or repealed by any Act or Acts to be paſſed in the preſent Seſſion of Parliament.

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